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## Rabin: Autonomy jeopardized by terror

LIAT COLLINS

THE future of the autonomy plan remains in question as long as the Palestinians cannot curb terror, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"We want to continue with the Oslo accords, but unless the Palestinians manage to overcome the problem of terror, the continuation of negotiations is in doubt," Rabin was quoted as saying.

"We have made clear the main hurdle [affecting what] is being achieved in the negotiations is terrorism," Rabin told reporters after the meeting.

The greatest problem is the suicide terrorists, Rabin said. Over the last two years, 39 Israelis have been killed in suicide attacks, including 38 of the 69 terror victims last year, and 21 of the 24 terror victims this year, Rabin said. He told the committee, however, that Israel knows Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is trying to reach an agreement with Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Rabin said he "is proud of the achievements of Oslo, while aware of the serious difficulties." He emphasized that without the Oslo accord the peace treaty with Jordan would not have been possible. Rabin repeated his stand that "the suicide terrorists want to kill Israelis and the peace process."

According to Rabin, the Palestinian Authority is not detaining or bringing to trial enough terrorists. He said Israel holds between 5,000 and 6,000 Palestinians in administrative detention. Over 2,000 Palestinians have been detained since the Dizengoff bus bombing, he noted, adding that the prisoner release committee is not meeting for the time being.

Rabin gave the committee two examples of how the judicial system works in the autonomous areas, according to stories he heard from Arafat. A resident of Khan Yunis suspected of terrorist activity was brought before a judge. Suddenly, a relative came into the court and shot the judge in the legs. The prisoner was immediately released. In another incident, a man apparently sent by Abu Nidal to assassinate Arafat was released within 30 minutes.

The Palestinians are apparently holding seven Islamic Jihad leaders and scores of activists.

Rabin said they should be tried by the Palestinians in a "non-civilian court." He said he would not agree to Arafat's request for another 2,000 policemen until he is given the names of all the policemen currently serving in the Palestinian Police.

A comment by a committee member that Arafat should outlaw Hamas and Islamic Jihad, just as Israel has outlawed Kach and Kahane Ha'i, caused an uproar, with right-wing politicians objecting to the comparison.

"Oslo's dead - we need to verify the kill," said Likud MK Benny Begin.

In response to a question on Palestinian activity in Jerusalem, Rabin said a team had been established to examine each institution individually. He said this was to avoid a situation in which he took action against an institution without knowing all the facts, and found the case failed later in the High Court.



A demonstrator in Hebron yesterday marks the first anniversary of the Machpela Cave massacre. (Brian Hendler)

## Stonethrower killed on first anniversary of Hebron massacre

JON IMMANUEL

THE first anniversary of the Machpela Cave massacre, according to the Palestinian Muslim calendar, passed relatively peacefully in Hebron yesterday. However, one stonethrower, Sami Najjar, was killed and four persons were wounded when soldiers opened fire on stonethrowers in the usually quiet al-Fawwar camp south of the city.

In Hebron, burning tires blocked the entrance to the city in the morning, but inside the town the atmosphere was calm. Despite the strike, the streets were crowded. Vegetable and bread street vendors did a brisk trade in Bab al-Zawiye, the scene of several knifing attacks against soldiers during the past few months.

The military presence, though it was reportedly increased, was not noticeably greater than on other days. Stakes and demonstrations were reported in Ramallah and Tulkarm, where opposition and Hamas groups are strong, but in Bethlehem many shops were open.

Outside the Machpela Cave's Ibrahim Mosque after noon prayers, Dr. Abdel-Hafez Ashab, the Palestinian Authority minister of communications and a Hebronite, said that since the massacre last February, "The credibility of the peace process is diminished day by day. It will lead to catastrophe if things do not change."

Taleb Abu Sneineh, a bearded young merchant, said, "The hatred between Arab and Jew has increased." [Massacre perpetrator Baruch] Goldstein created 'the holy martyrs' [suicide bombers who have killed 54 Israelis]. The massacre did not serve the Jewish people or the settlements.

Settler spokesman Noam Arnon disputed Ashab's claim that the mosque is a Muslim shrine and only Muslims should pray there. "At the end of the 20th century holy places cannot be closed to anyone who wants to pray in them," Arnon said, asserting that "it is not a Muslim building. It was built by Jews."

"Most people think the government was behind the massacre," said one man, despite its strong condemnation and compensation payments running into millions of shekels to families of the 29 killed and 125 wounded.

Some of those permanently crippled in the attack say they have still not received payments.

Dr. Ellen Rosser, an American affiliated with the Hebron Friendship Society, was optimistic about a resolution. "We are working on peaceful relations between settlers and the people of Hebron, so that the settlers will ask the army to go." For starters Arnon accepted her invitation to a Jewish-Muslim dialogue.

## Goldstein memorial events 'incitement to murder' - Rabin

HERB KEINON and Tim

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday called support for Baruch Goldstein "incitement to murder," referring to a memorial service for Goldstein scheduled tomorrow in Kiryat Arba.

According to former Kach head Baruch Marzel, the service will be held at the site of Goldstein's grave in Kiryat Arba, and was organized by Goldstein's family.

"We hung up hundreds of posters announcing the service, and are also organizing services Thursday in his honor in Hatzor, Beersheba and Haifa," Marzel said. Marzel said that seven other services memorializing Goldstein will be held throughout the country over the next two weeks.

The service at the grave will be followed by another service attended by a number of rabbis, Marzel said. He would not mention the rabbis' names, saying that "in this Bolshevik state," if their names were publicized they would be prevented from attending.

Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban approached Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair with a request that he direct the IDF to prevent the service tomorrow.

Tzaban also demanded that immediate action be taken against those who glorify Goldstein's deed, and those who hung the posters advocating participation in the vigil.

Tzaban based this request on Clause 4 of the Prevention of Terror Law, which completely prohibits identification with acts of terror.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said today that the state must arrest, interrogate and try anyone who expresses any identification with the massacre.

"There is no difference between Goldstein and a Hamas or Islamic Jihad murderer, therefore there is no distinguishing between those who express support for massacring Jews or Muslims. Israel demands that the Palestinian Authority deal openly with terror supporters, and if it strongly demands it, it must do the same. If we do not act we will pull the rug out from under our justifiable demands," he said.

Batsheva Tsor adds: Most of the recommendations of the Shamgar Commission regarding the Hebron massacre a year ago have been implemented, particularly those with reference to praying at the Machpela Cave, Justice Minister David Liba'i said yesterday.

However, he added that the recommendations regarding enforcing the law in terms of the settlers had not been fully implemented. The Justice Ministry was in touch with the State Attorney's Office where the recommendations were currently being studied.

## Burg sole nominee to head Agency

### Board of governors not prepared to endorse Leket

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin telephoned MK Avraham Burg last night to tell him the advise and consent committee had endorsed him as the sole candidate for Jewish Agency chairman.

Following a meeting with agency board of governors head Mendel Kaplan, Rabin also called Acting Chairman Yehiel Leket. Rabin told him the fund-raisers had praised him lavishly for the work he had done in the past year, but were not prepared to endorse him as permanent chairman.

Leket had filled the post since it was vacated by Simcha Diniz, who is on trial for fraud and breach of trust. "I have to honor the decision," Leket said later. "I shall comment on it at Thursday's meeting of the Labor Party central committee."

Burg preferred not to comment, beyond saying he accepts the decision.

It had been an anxious day for both candidates. With strong pressure from the Israeli side to approve both Leket and Burg so the Labor Party could hold a democratic vote as scheduled on Thursday, Kaplan promised to bring the committee's answer to Rabin by 10 p.m.

Pressure had also come from Likud members of the World Zionist Organization's executive. On Monday, they wrote to the committee members urging them to endorse both candidates.

The WZO Executive members, including Uri Gordon (Labor) and Salai Meridor, Shlomo Gravetz, and Hanan Ben-Yehuda (all Likud), stressed the difficulties caused by the long transition period since Diniz vacated the post.

At noon yesterday Burg arrived at the King David Hotel, where four members of the advise and consent committee were cloistered, for a long session during which he answered questions on the agency and his plans should he be appointed chairman. It was Burg's second appearance, as both candidates had earlier met with the full committee in New York, both apparently failing to impress them sufficiently to win endorsement.

Emerging two hours later, Burg told reporters he was confident he would be endorsed by the members. "I enjoyed every minute of the meeting," he said.

In the corridors of the Jewish Agency building, one employee commented wryly: "Rabin is backing Leket, because he can't let him down. But everyone thinks he has made a deal with the fund-raisers to support Burg."

Leket, who was not invited to a second session, said that his work as acting chairman "spoke for itself" and that the committee members knew this and therefore did not need to speak to him again. But his supporters sounded pessimistic.

After the session with Burg, the committee members in Israel held a conference call with their six counterparts in the US. Once again, differences of opinion reportedly surfaced. In Jerusalem, Kaplan and Max Fisher kept poker faces, steadfastly refusing to comment which way the wind was blowing. "I'll be able to speak tomorrow," Fisher said.

The evening found both Leket and Kaplan at a festive gathering at the Jerusalem Hyatt Hotel, but Kaplan continued to keep his cards close to his chest, leaving close to 10 p.m. for his meeting with Rabin.

## Egypt blocking Israel's ties with Arab world

### PM talks of 'ill wind' in Cairo

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

EGYPT'S insistence that Israel sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is blocking the development of relations between Israel and the rest of the Arab world, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"There's an ill wind blowing in the Egyptian foreign ministry," Rabin was quoted as saying. He added however that he hoped this is just a "temporary" bad patch.

Egypt and the Arab League secretariat, meanwhile, have drafted a treaty that would make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

The treaty, submitted to representatives of Arab states at a meeting in Cairo yesterday, is designed to include Israel and Iran, alongside all 22 members of the Arab League.

Under the present text, it would come into force only when eight core states sign and ratify it. These are Jordan, Israel, Iran, Algeria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Egypt.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak proposed such a zone in 1990, but Egypt has not previously formalized it in a treaty.

The idea has again come to prominence as Egypt, Israel and the United States maneuver over extending the NPT, which runs out this year.

The draft treaty comes close to being a regional alternative to the NPT, adding chemical and biological weapons.

An Arab League assistant secretary general, Adnan Omran, linked the treaty directly with Israel's refusal to sign the NPT and open its nuclear program to international inspection.

"Our independence and sovereignty will be meaningless if the Israeli nuclear umbrella continues, threatening every state in the Arab world," he told the meeting.

In Damascus yesterday, Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said that Syria will stick to its "firm position" not to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty unless Israel does.

He was speaking to reporters after nearly three hours of talks with Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul-Meguid, who arrived here Monday for discussions on regional issues, including the Middle East peace process.

"This position is in the interests of all parties, without exception," Shara stressed.

An editorial in the government-run newspaper Tishrin said dismantling Israel's nuclear weapons was "a prerequisite" for an Arab-Israeli settlement. Failure to do so would the Arabs to seek "identical deterrent means," it said.

## Ethiopian soldiers poorly motivated and integrated, says IDF study

ALON PINKAS

THE integration of male soldiers of Ethiopian origin is very problematic, and their motivation to serve in the army is low and decreasing, according to research being conducted by IDF psychologists.

The study by the Behavioral Sciences Unit is a follow-up of earlier research, which found Ethiopians profoundly disillusioned with their absorption in the country. It said new conscripts carry the dissatisfactions of absorption into the army, which prevents their effective integration into the IDF.

According to the study, Ethiopians have "learned to complain" and express their grievances.

"The army has these wonderful plans on how they should be integrated, given their initial motivation, but then they arrive at a basic training camp and meet head-on the unpleasant realities of sergeants and junior officers who lack the knowledge or sensitivity to deal with their unique background," said one researcher.

The follow-up studies indicate Ethiopians are increasingly inclined to join the Border Police, despite being encouraged to join infantry units, for which they are sufficiently qualified and motivated.

"They are culturally bound together and through group identification they try to cope with the hardships of integration," the researcher said. "Once some are in the Border Police and are satisfied, others want to join in."

He added that the Border Police, unlike regular army units, offers concrete career opportunities.

"Ethiopian youngsters are apprehensive of what awaits them in civilian life, because they see the problems their families have. It's only natural they seek some 'job security' which Golan or any other unit cannot provide them with," said the researcher.

## 'Moslem extremists target Wall St.'

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

WALL Street is bracing for a possible terror attack after police said they had received "uncomfortably credible" reports that Moslem extremists planned to strike at American capitalism, *Newsday* reported yesterday.

Law enforcement sources said they had received tips about a possible attack, although it was not clear what kind of attack was likely. Law enforcement officials were also not sure what the target would be.

"From the language that was used, we think that a stock exchange is the likely target," sources told *Newsday*. The timing was to occur before the end of Ramadan.

Officials said the attack was to protest the trial of Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman and 10 others charged with conspiracy in the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

## Jordanian cabinet scraps anti-Israel laws

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan is scrapping three key anti-Israel laws now that the two countries have signed a peace treaty, officials said yesterday.

The legislation included a 1973 law that set execution as a penalty for selling land or buildings to

"the enemy" - Israel. It was considered treason but the death penalty was never carried out, they said.

The other laws, dating to the 1950s, banned Jordanians from contacts with Israelis or doing business with Israel or foreign

companies dealing with Israel. Sentences for such crimes ranged from three to 15 years in jail.

The cabinet agreed to repeal the three laws on Saturday and has sent a draft law superseding them to parliament for approval.

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March 20 and 21



# Few leads in taxi driver murder case

Colleagues demonstrate after Rafi Cohen's funeral

BILL HUTMAN and Ilan

POLICE have few leads on Monday's presumed murder by terrorists of Jerusalem taxi driver Rafi Cohen, who was buried yesterday in the capital's Har Hameinuhot cemetery in Givat Shaul.

Jerusalem police sources said the investigation is now focusing on gathering intelligence leading to the killers, who are believed to have disguised themselves as Jews to take a ride with Cohen, and then fatally stabbed him.

"The entire people of Israel are today on the front line," Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said in the short eulogy he delivered before hundreds of friends, family members, and taxi drivers.

"The time has passed when there was a front line and then another back area that the war did not touch. The front line today is our homes, streets, and walkways we travel every day," Olmert said.

Several in the crowd called out slogans against the government and the peace process. MK Yosef Ba-Gad (Molodet) attacked the government for holding a party at the Prime Minister's Residence the same night as the murder.

"Where are those who last night were partying? Why aren't they here today?" Ba-Gad said. The government has long maintained a policy of not sending representatives to the funeral of terrorist victims.

Cohen, who lived in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood, is survived by a wife and two children.

Dozens of angry taxi drivers drove from the cemetery to the Prime Minister's Office following the funeral to protest Cohen's murder and demand improved security measures for taxi drivers.

The drivers blocked the roads around the Prime Minister's Office for nearly an hour before dispersing peacefully. Taxi service was largely halted in the city during the demonstration.

Many drivers spoke out strongly against the government requiring them to install distress signals costing some NIS 800, which they say are useless. Instead, the state should pay for electric shockers for drivers and protective dividers to be placed between them and back seat passengers, the drivers said.

Five drivers have been murdered on the job in the past year, according to Avraham Fried, chairman of the National Taxi Drivers Organization.

"We are required to be picked up wherever flags us down, including [potential] terrorists," despite the dangers, and still "don't receive the help we deserve," Fried said.



Angry Jerusalem taxi drivers, protesting the terrorist murder of their colleague Rafi Cohen, wave anti-government banners outside the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

## Terror money suspect held

A PALESTINIAN currently residing in the US has been remanded here on suspicion of bringing in cash to fund Islamic Jihad terrorist attacks.

Mohammed Barakat, 36, a US citizen from Chicago originally from A-Ram, north of Jerusalem, was arrested with another village resident on arriving from the US at Ben-Gurion Airport Friday. The two were carrying over \$250,000 in cash which the General Security Service believes was for Islamic Jihad.

On Monday, the two were brought before a Ashkelon Magistrate's Court judge for a remand hearing.

Police told the court that Barakat received the money from a Moslem leader in Chicago closely associated with Islamic Jihad.

The judge remanded Barakat for three days, and released Samih Jader, 44, caught carrying \$65,000. Barakat said the \$188,000 he was carrying is for a home being built by his family.

## Zucker: Jewish 'islands' will stay

HERB KEINON

MERETZ MK Dedi Zucker said yesterday he envisions settlements in the territories remaining as "islands" within an autonomous Palestinian region, leading opposition MKs to remark that Zucker - and Meretz - have moved considerably to the right.

"I am against territorial continuity between settlements because this will destroy the peace process," Zucker said during a meeting of the Knesset Law Committee, which he chairs. But, he said he envisions the settlements remaining as independent "islands." The committee held its weekly meeting yesterday in Kfar Adumim and Ariel.

Zucker said that during the next stage of the peace process, the question will be whether the settlements will be autonomous in a region under Palestinian jurisdiction, or the Palestinians autonomous in an area under Israeli jurisdiction.

"It's the question whether the Zebra's stripes are black or white," Zucker said. He said he wants to see the settlements as Israeli autonomous areas within a Palestinian autonomous region.

He said this is an indication of how he sees the final agreement as well.

Zucker said he believes that a number of the estimated 140,000 settlers would leave rather than live under this type of arrangement, but that he doesn't see the need to uproot the settlers who wish to stay. They would remain Israeli citizens, he said, and be bound by Israeli law in the settlements. Outside the settlements, however, they would be under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian entity that will be formed.

National Religious Party MK Shaul Yahalom said this thinking is a radical change from the Meretz position that has traditionally called for establishing a Palestinian state and uprooting settlements. "This shows that Zucker realizes that you cannot uproot all the settlers," Yahalom said. "He has read the numbers and realized that rather than seeing a mass exodus from the settlements, people are moving in."

During the first stage of the

committee's tour, to Kfar Adumim; Menahem Ben-Arie, the secretary of the Binyamin Regional Council, distributed statistics showing that in the 14 months since the signing of the Oslo agreements, the Jewish population in the region grew some 25 percent, from 16,385 residents to 20,539. From 1990 to 1994, the population grew 78 percent.

Likud MK and Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman said that over the last year the population of Ariel has increased by 15 percent, and now numbers some 13,000 residents. "I have 350 apartments standing empty, and 500 families interested in moving into them. But the government won't sell them," Nahman said.

The seven MKs on the tour were greeted in Kfar Adumim by small groups of schoolchildren. Many pushed slips of paper into the MKs' hands and asked for their autographs.

One giggling elementary school student said to Yael Dayan: "Is it true you want to give away our homes. Don't give away my home, we paid a lot of money for it." Dayan smiled.

## PA would accept phased IDF pullout

LAMIA LAHOUD

PALESTINIAN Authority officials say the Palestinians are ready to accept a gradual redeployment plan for the territories which takes the security needs of both sides into account, but that they want some kind of timetable.

PA official Hassan Asfour said the Palestinians are flexible concerning the timetable for redeployment. This, he said, is a new position.

According to Asfour, the PA insists that elections and redeployment remain linked, as mentioned in the DOP. He said the PA thus prefers to hold off Palestinian general elections until the redeployment of IDF troops from all population centers has been completed. Asfour believes a draft agreement on elections can be formulated in Cairo next week.

Another PA official said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin proposed two scenarios for redeployment to PA head Yasser Arafat: either an IDF withdrawal from all the territories for a few days during Palestinian elections or starting detailed talks on a gradual redeployment plan. The official said the Palestinians accept the second proposal, but insist on a timetable defining a reasonable limit for the redeployment.

Special UN coordinator Terje Larson said he discussed the crisis created by the Beit Lid bombing with Arafat before and after last week's Rabin-Arafat summit and believes Arafat is ready to offer security guarantees to the Israelis, but needs some tangible action on the ground in return.

Larson, a Norwegian, was one of the initiators of the secret talks in Oslo between the PLO and Israel and acted as mediator. Based on his talks with Arafat, he believes a partial withdrawal of IDF troops from one or two populated areas in the territories, the deployment of some kind of international presence there alongside the Palestinian Police, and a long-term timetable for the rest of the redeployment would help resolve the deadlock of the present crisis.

Arafat, he said, must then offer specific security measures to the Israelis - like trying some of those involved in attacks against Israelis - and Larson believes he is willing to do so. In fact, he said, Arafat has taken more security measures than have been published in the press. He said Arafat is eager to demonstrate that he is in control.

According to Larson, the PA head asked him to convey a letter to the UN secretary-general asking the UN to intervene and help solve the crisis.

Marwan Barghout, the general secretary of Fatah in the territories, did not want to comment on the PA's position on redeployment, but he accused the Israelis of breaking every agreed upon point in the Oslo agreement.

"The Oslo agreement talks about evacuation of population centers and redeployment of IDF troops before elections. The Israelis, it seems, are talking about redeployment of the Palestinian population instead," he said.

## Palestinian Police finds 200 kg. of explosives

THE Palestinian Police found 200 kg. of explosive material yesterday in Khan Yunis. Yasser Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh confirmed last night.

Hamas had planned to use the material to make bombs, according to a Chamel One report.

The report added that the explosives were found in a cow shed next to a barrel containing pornographic playing cards, which Hamas apparently intended to distribute to embarrass Arafat. (JP Staff)

## PLO lobbies for UN debate

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

THE PLO has stepped up contacts with UN Security Council members, asking for a debate on Israeli settlements, according to the PLO UN mission.

Saying that the meeting last week between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "failed to resolve the issue," the PLO has been conducting "formal, intensive consultations" for a hearing by the council, a PLO spokesman said.

"We are looking for clear-cut action," he said, "a resolution or a statement from the president" of the council.

He suggested that members' attitudes toward a council debate will be shaped by the outcome of tomorrow's meeting between Rabin and Arafat.

In the last few weeks, the PLO campaign had been conducted by mail. The PLO mission submitted a letter to the Security Council, while Arafat wrote to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Arafat complained about the settlements, delay in the redeployment of Israeli troops, and "collective punishment of the Palestinian population by sealing off the occupied territories." In its letters, the PLO did not ask for any specific action.

Israel's mission to the UN has said the PLO is trying to gather international support, thinking this would give the Palestinians a boost in subsequent bilateral negotiations.

"We think those negotiations have to be conducted without prejudging the outcomes by the United Nations and without intervening before the time is right," said Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi.

"It is a part of their struggle to have some advantage before the permanent-settlement stage starts," he said of the PLO, "and I am sorry for it, because I think they made a mistake. I created a negative environment within the United Nations around the Israeli-Palestinian relationship."

## Assa: Business rival kidnapped me

RAINE MARCUS

RUBY ASSA, the 72-year-old steel magnate suspected of swindling the state out of \$60 million and who was extradited from Switzerland last September, yesterday accused the owner of the Red Rock company, Menahem Prihar, of kidnapping him and threatening to murder him.

Prihar and 15 "Filipino gangsters" kidnapped him from Singapore and brought him to the Philippines, where according to Assa, they tortured him and even pointed out a forest where they told him they would throw his body after his murder. The alleged abduction occurred after Assa fled Israel in 1992.

Assa made the accusations in Tel Aviv District Court during a hearing on the future of his company, Ram Industries. Red Rock also has a lien on Ram's assets, and the court is expected to decide on its validity.

After Assa failed to repay Prihar in 1992 for metal imported from Poland, Prihar allegedly told Assa that this was his opportunity to take over Ram Industries. Then, said Assa, Prihar began threatening to hire hit men to kill him which is why he fled the country.



Ahmed Tibi (Brian Hendler)

## 'Tibi won't be charged'

BILL HUTMAN

CRIMINAL charges will probably not be filed against Ahmed Tibi, senior adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, a senior police source said yesterday, after Tibi was questioned by police about his alleged illegal activity at recent anti-settlement protests.

Tibi was interrogated for 90 minutes by investigators at the Bethlehem police station concerning allegations he called for the renewal of the intifada, took part in illegal demonstrations, and hit a soldier during a protest.

The source dismissed Tibi's claims the investigation was politically motivated, saying Arabs, Jews, leftists and rightists were interrogated in connection with the recent confrontations over settlements.

"What could we have done, simply ignored the fact that Tibi took part in illegal demonstrations, or that we received a complaint from a soldier who said Tibi hit him?" the source asked.

Tibi also received special treatment and was not fingerprinted as is normal with suspects in such cases, the source added.

"I repeated to the investigators exactly what I said before - in my opinion continued settlement activity is likely to renew the intifada," Tibi told *The Jerusalem Post*.

He said he was not among the organizers and therefore should not be held responsible for the demonstrations at El Khader, Deir Khadis, and other locations where Palestinians recently protested settlement activity.

"In many cases, senior police and army officers came up to me and asked me to intervene to cool tempers," Tibi said.

He said too much should not be made of the investigation, and that he does not see it having an effect on Israeli-Palestinian relations.

## Trial begins of suspected Aslan killers

RAINE MARCUS

THE trial of Reuven "Banjo" Adjashvili and Eli Cohen, accused of murdering underworld kingpin Yehzekel Aslan two years ago, opened yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court.

Police believe Aslan's murder was commissioned by Ze'ev Rosenstein. The district attorney indicated this in the indictment, but Rosenstein has not been charged due to lack of evidence.

Rosenstein, whom police said was at odds with Aslan over gambling ventures here and abroad, was held briefly after the murder.

Aslan, a police target for many years due to his alleged involvement in illegal enterprises, was gunned down as he stepped into his car outside a Tel Aviv restaurant in February 1992.

Adjashvili and Cohen, who are serving time for other offenses, were arrested for Aslan's murder around two months ago, after police said an informer heard Adjashvili admit the crime in his prison cell. Adjashvili, who police believe pulled the trigger, was due for release shortly.

ברוך דיין האמת  
In deep sorrow and profound grief we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother, sister and grandmother

**BELLA RACHEL SAMET** י"ה  
daughter of Shlomo ז"ל

The funeral took place yesterday, February 14, 1995 (14 Adar 1 5755) at the Savoyon Cemetery.

The Bereaved Family

Shiva at the home of the deceased,  
2 Ha'oranim St., Savoyon

EMUNAH WOMEN OF CANADA  
deeply mourns the passing of

**PEPEY ELTES** י"ה

A lifelong friend of Emunah Canada  
We express our deepest sympathy to Jack and the Eltes family.

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

**HELEN WISHNETSKY** י"ה

on February 13, 1995 at the age of 101.

Mourning by: Myra Dromi  
Tamar Dromi  
Amir Dromi and family  
Shal Dromi

The Staff and Management of the Jerusalem Post  
offer sincere condolences to

Myra Dromi  
on the death of her mother

**HELEN WISHNETSKY**

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# Saying no to drugs not enough - students

HALF the 2,400 Jewish teenagers living in the north of the country who participated in a poll say they drink alcoholic beverages socially.

The survey, conducted by the Israel Society for the Prevention of Alcoholism, was presented yesterday at a Kfar Hamaccabiah conference on alcoholism by Hanna Weiss, its prevention coordinator.

Most of them said they drink at pubs, even though the sale of alcoholic beverages to youngsters under 18 is forbidden. The survey presented worrisome statistics about the non-Jewish population:

12% of Moslem girls and 30% of the boys drink, even though it is forbidden by their religion; so do half the Christian girls, 9% of Druse girls, and 43% of Druse boys. A previous survey found that drinking was unknown among Moslem girls in 1990.

A group of high school students got a chance to get out of the classroom and into the House yesterday when they participated in talks on drug and alcohol abuse held by the Knesset War on Drugs Committee.

The students had a clear message for the legislators: something needs to be done and it

LIAT COLLINS and item

cannot just be talk.

"It's no good just giving us a talk about how we should say 'no' to drugs. If it's all down to persuasion through talk, youths who have just received a lecture on 'why not to use drugs' could be equally persuaded why they should use them 30 minutes later at a party," said Sivan.

Another girl said youth should not be shown the results of drug abuse, because talk can make the drugs seem more attractive. "It might make some people feel they want to try them to see what

the effects are."

One boy, who admitted many of his high school friends regularly use drugs, suggested establishing a network of drug enforcement guardians, like cleanliness and animal welfare wardens, to work in schools.

A Haifa teacher suggested hitting the youth where it hurts most by automatically rescinding driving licenses and IDF mobilization for youths found using drugs. Most of the students agreed the idea could be an effective deterrent.

Committee chairman Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) was

reminded about "the old days when youth were too busy with sports, folk dancing, and youth group activities to use drugs." He urged a return to those days and activities, but most of the students appeared to feel that it was not an effective solution to the problem.

The discussion focused largely on the problems in what has become known as "Alcohol Valley" in Haifa. Police noted they receive 130 complaints of drug use among school students in this area a year, but 80% of the files are closed before legal action is taken.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Boy's leg reconstructed from shinbone

The left leg of a 14-year-old Jericho boy was reconstructed from his right shinbone, which had to be amputated after he suffered severe injury from an explosive device - apparently a mine - in the Jordan Rift region on Sunday. The operation, which also included the reattachment of his thumb, was reportedly the first of its kind here.

The boy, Bashrat Mu'atez, was walking with an older relative when an explosion occurred. He was flown by military helicopter, in serious condition, to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem. The security authorities believe the incident was only an accident and that the boy was not involved in any criminal activity.

It was only the third time that Hadassah doctors have used bits of bone from amputated limbs to reconstruct other limbs.

### Ministry issues math bagrut cram-book

The Education Ministry has published a list of questions from which the three-point level mathematics matriculation exam will be chosen. The list contains some 900 questions, in Hebrew and Arabic, of which about half will appear on the exam. Question booklets are being distributed in the high schools to help students prepare for the exam.

### Council accountant held for embezzlement

The accountant for the Ma'aleh Yosef regional council in Western Galilee has been arrested on suspicion of embezzling money from the council. The remainder of suspect Yosef Asdo, 40, was extended by nine days yesterday by the Acre Magistrate's Court.

Police said Asdo paid salaries to people who did not work at the council between 1990-1994, then pocketed the money after making false entries in the council's books.

### Bill would restrict cigarette advertising

A law to restrict cigarette advertising appears to have a majority in the Knesset Economics Committee, though the committee has not voted yet. The bill, by Yoram Lass (Labor), would forbid the use of human figures in cigarette advertisements, require 10 percent of the ad space to be devoted to a warning that cigarettes are dangerous to your health, and increase the size of the typeface used for the warning.

### Limit increased on small claims suits

Suits for up to NIS 8,000 can now be filed in small claims court, the Knesset Law Committee decided Monday. The increase, from NIS 5,000, was greater than the NIS 7,000 ceiling Justice Minister David Liba'i had requested, but smaller than the NIS 10,000 ceiling the committee had originally wanted. Liba'i also told the committee he would soon submit a proposal to increase the ceiling on suits in magistrates' courts to NIS 1 million.

### Sarid: ATVs endanger people and beaches

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid plans to ask the Transport Minister to support legislation which would forbid driving all vehicles, except for emergency vehicles, on the country's beaches.

Sarid said the trend of driving on beaches in ATVs (all-terrain vehicles), jeeps, and motorcycles had to be stopped. These vehicles endanger human lives and cause irreversible damage to beaches, Sarid said yesterday at a meeting with various authorities and environmentalist groups on the matter.

### Nesher cement factory gets new orders

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid has issued a personal order requiring the Nesher cement factory in Haifa to reduce its pollution by half until the factory closes in 2003.

According to the regulation, the factory cannot produce more than 70 mg of solid waste per cu. meter, compared with 150 today. Moreover, its yearly allotment of extra operational hours will be cut from 240 to 120.

## Second suicide couple still in hospital

JUDY SIEGEL

MORDECHAI and Tzivia Ya'ari wanted to die together because she was terminally ill with cancer. But after their suicide attempt on Monday, Tzivia seems more likely to survive than her husband.

Dr. Yosef Frost, director of Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, said yesterday that both were treated with an antidote for sleeping pills. The husband was in serious condition and still unconscious in the internal-medicine department yesterday, while the wife showed signs of recovering, he said.

The couple, both 71 and residents of Moshav Asseret, swallowed large quantities of pills on Monday and were found in their bed by their grandson Erez. One of their two sons, Baruch, died a few years ago from a serious illness.

The other son, Yisrael, reported that the couple had bought two plots in the cemetery next to Baruch's grave. They also made a change in their will a few days before their suicide attempt, which they had apparently been planning for a long time. When Tzivia developed pneumonia, she and her husband decided to end their lives.

Frost said the case was "very sad," especially coming a day after Yosef and Tzili Avrahami - 83 and healthy - committed suicide in their Kibbutz Magen home because they did not want to suffer from physical decline or live one without the other. "It was a shame that TV idealized the Avrahamis' deaths, although this tragedy was apparently not connected to the first."

## Knesset panel to investigate wife murders

LIAT COLLINS

THE murder of women by their husbands or boyfriends is to be investigated by a parliamentary commission of inquiry, alternatively headed by Likud MK Limor Livnat and Labor MK Yael Dayan, who yesterday began selecting other members of the nine-member panel. The committee was established following a vote in the plenum late Monday night.

Dayan was the only Labor MK to vote in favor of Livnat's bill, although most speakers noted the subject was non-political. The proposal passed 19 to 16. All those against were Labor MKs. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir who voted against the original proposal and then backtracked, was noticeably absent from the discussions.

Livnat said the commission is necessary to examine all aspects of such murders, including the actions of police, local authorities, gun licensing and shelters for battered wives. "Some of the cases of women killed by their husbands were cases of murder that could have been expected," said Livnat. "The authorities and police knew about the dangers and were even taking action against the men, but something went wrong. Even though the system apparently was working, it still went wrong. We need a commission to see what still needs to be done; how things can be improved."

Labor MK Dalia Itzik said the commission would be "redundant," adding no previous government has done so much to promote women's affairs.



Marianne Gingrich, wife of US House Speaker Newt Gingrich, yesterday accepts a gift from Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss. She is here on behalf of the Israel Export Development Company, which is lobbying for a local Free Export Processing Zone. (Isaac Harari)

## Health Ministry may assign army medics to replace fired MDA civilian medics

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry is considering using army medics to help out Magen David Adom ambulance drivers left without civilian medics due to budget cuts.

MDA union chief Eli Ben-Khassous said yesterday that MDA management has informed medics in six stations - Ramle-Lod, Kiryat Malachi, Ofakim, Sderot, Upper Nazareth and Beit She'an - that they will be dismissed today.

The union has threatened sanctions within a few days due to the manpower cut, which they said endangers the lives of patients. "We won't agree to a situation in which ambulance

drivers will work alone, holding the wheel in one hand and the patient's oxygen mask in the other. Professional help of an accompanying medic is highly important for treating and supervising the patient lying behind the driver, especially in MDA branches that are far from hospitals."

The union said that in the recovery program signed by then-health minister Haim Ramon, it was agreed that while other workers would be dismissed, ambulance medics would remain.

MDA management said yesterday that the salaries of 16 medics were financed during the past year by the government, and asked the Health Ministry to continue paying their wages this year as well. So far, management has not received any positive answer, forcing it to fire six medics amid hopes money will be found to retain the other 10.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai said that a NIS 25 million budget cut has forced the ministry to "reorder priorities." It was examining a number of alternatives, including putting army medics on MDA ambulances.

## 200 percent rise in tourism to Turkey

HAIM SHAPIRO

MORE than 300,000 Israelis visited Turkey in 1994, an increase of more than 200 percent compared with 1993, according to Aymur Dogan, information officer at the Turkish Embassy.

Speaking at a news conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, Dogan said that although official records show a total of 303,920 Israeli tourists visiting Turkey, it is believed that some 340,000 Israelis actually came to Turkey for vacation in 1994. This, because a significant number of Israelis entered Turkey on other passports.

A total of 8,844 Israeli visitors arrived in Turkey in January, an increase of 31 percent from the previous year. Most of the winter visitors came for ski vacations, Dogan said, adding that Turkey has 18 ski resorts with a season lasting from November to May.

For 1995, she said, the Turkish Ministry of Tourism is expecting

a relatively modest increase of Israeli tourism of 10 percent. She could not say whether prices for package vacations in Turkey would remain as low this year as they were last year, since this was determined by market factors.

Sources in the tourism industry said yesterday that they expected a rise in the price of packages to Turkey. Last year's special deals, the sources said, were largely a result of cancellations by Germans and Italians in the wake of terror attacks.

However, Danny Chrost, director of the Travel Agents Association, said that last year tens of thousands of Israelis also canceled their trips to Turkey after terror bombings. Chrost said that rather than confiscate deposits, as they had a right to do, the Turkish tourism entrepreneurs wisely allowed the deposits to be used for later visits.

## Bezek receives ministry OK to begin its identifying call service

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK has received permission from the Communications Ministry to start its "identifying call" (she'it mizaha) service on March 7, three weeks later than planned. But Bezek must first place advertisements in the media and send letters to subscribers explaining how to protect their privacy.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni, who berated Bezek officials on Sunday for planning to go ahead with the experimental service without first receiving ministry authorization, met with chairman Gurion Meltzer and director-general Yitzhak Kaul yesterday.

The two promised that in the future, the company will coordinate its activities with the ministry, and make sure to obtain all

necessary licenses and approvals in advance.

Aloni had not been satisfied that the more than one million subscribers who will have access to the service in the near future would be aware of how it works. Ministry officials feared that the identity of people who, for example, call the income-tax information line, 056 erotic lines, or other services would automatically become known.

"Identifying call" allows subscribers to hook up a device, available in electronics shops for NIS 150 to NIS 350, to identify a caller even before they pick up the receiver, and even to store in its memory the numbers of those who called when they were unavailable.

## Principal reprimanded for cursing teacher

AMIR ROZENBLIT

THIS principal of a Mitzpe Ramon school sparked a storm in the town last week by reportedly shouting "Damn you!" at a teacher he was arguing with over classroom maintenance.

The incident started when the Mitzpe Ramon school teacher found herself accidentally locked in her classroom. When she eventually freed herself, she went to the teachers' lounge and complained to her friends about the poor maintenance in the classroom.

The teacher left in tears, and her colleagues were shocked. "How can we say anything to people who curse their friends when the principal does the same thing?" asked one. The principal

reported previously termed teachers at the school "scoundrels" after they failed to put back work schedules they had taken.

An Education Ministry supervisor was looking into the matter yesterday, and asked the principal to apologize to the teacher and those who witnessed his outburst. "We take a very grave view of the incident, and believe such outbursts do not befit the ministry," a ministry official said.

## Another arrest in TA realty bribe scandal

RAINE MARCUS

A SENIOR official employed at the Tel Aviv branch of the Purchase Tax offices was arrested Monday evening by the National Fraud Squad on suspicion of receiving bribes from businessman Yeheskel Pollack.

Pollack was arrested around 10 days ago with Nosh Mann, a senior official at the Tel Aviv branch of the finance ministry.

Mann allegedly received thousands of shekels in cash and valuables from Pollack for giving him preferential treatment regarding the location of properties for rental by government agencies.

Pollack is suspected of bribing Mann, the official arrested yesterday and others. In return, he allegedly was allowed to pay lower taxes on property deals.

Police have not yet decided whether the official - one of the heads of the Purchase Tax office in Tel Aviv, and who allegedly received thousands of shekels for favors given - will be released on bail or whether he will appear for a remand hearing this morning.

## More than 2.1 million drivers on the road

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE number of licensed drivers in Israel reached 2,114,000 by the end of 1994, an increase of 4 percent over the previous year, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

A total of 2,106,000 are licensed to drive cars and trucks weighing under four tons, 338,000 are qualified to drive trucks weighing over four tons, 291,000 are licensed to drive motorcycles, 70,000 have taxi permits, and about 50,000

are qualified as bus drivers. There are an average of 1.5 drivers per vehicle and 396 drivers per thousand residents. Among the drivers, 71 percent have held licenses for more than five years, and about 10 percent have had a license for less than two years.

Some 57,000 drivers are 18 or under and another 110,000 are 65 or older, while among the latter, 23,000 are 75 or older.

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## White racists set dogs against black children

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - Right-wing South African whites armed with chains, whips and snarling dogs yesterday terrorized black children bussed into their neighborhood and threatened to burn down the pupils' school.

Armed police escorted the children from the fenced-off school to buses at the end of the day.

"Tonight we're coming to burn down this school. We don't want these dirty kaffirs here," said one resident, referring to the blacks by a derogatory term now outlawed in South Africa.

About 100 men and women, most armed with chains, whips, batons or sticks, shouted abuse while their Rotweiler and Alsatian dogs barked viciously at the children.

The 3,000 black pupils occupied the school in the low-income Ruyterwacht suburb of Cape Town a week ago after they were turned away from overcrowded township schools about 15 km away at the beginning of the new school year.

Scores of previously whites-only schools have closed due to dwindling white population growth, but the country faces a massive backlog of classrooms and facilities in the townships to which blacks were restricted under apartheid.

The former white government began to relax school segregation in 1989, but the last vestiges of classroom apartheid were lifted in January when segregation was outlawed.

Black children have increasing-

ly moved into many mainly white schools since President Nelson Mandela won the first all-race elections last April and others have taken over abandoned school buildings.

Male nurse Wentzel Veldtsman said: "We are at breaking point now because we don't want these blacks here."

"The issue is they don't stay here. They stay in the townships and then they come here and disrupt the people."

"I saw with my own eyes how one of these blacks climbed over the fence and pulled out his private parts and tried to piss on a woman," Veldtsman said.

Pieter Labuschagne, sporting two golden front teeth, said: "They're urinating in public, they're having intercourse right in front of us in the school yard. They're animals, the place looks like a pigsty."

Ursula Fourie said she did not want any blacks in her suburb because they had killed her husband last year. "Now they're going to kill us and I will not allow it a second time."

Asked why children would want to kill her, she said: "Because they hate us."

School pupil Nicholas Booi said he was both sad and angry about the threats of the white community: "They must think we are very, very bad."

"We have voted and in a way they must make us feel happy in their areas. We're not here to disturb them. We only want an education," he said.



Chuck Loerwald, a supervisor with the Colorado department of transportation, walks through clearing operations yesterday on US Highway 40 after three avalanches closed the road near Berthoud, Co. A fierce winter storm damped two meters of snow in the Rockies, triggering avalanches and causing hundreds of car accidents. (AP)

## Aid cleared to starving Bihac

GENEVA (Reuters) - Croatian Serb forces have given permission for a UN convoy to cross their territory with aid for Bosnia's Bihac enclave, where hundreds, perhaps thousands, face starvation, the UNHCR refugee agency said yesterday.

Spokesman Ron Redmond said clearance had been given by the authorities in Knin, the Croatian Serb capital, for the trucks to pass through their territory with food and medicines.

"We have clear authorization for the convoy," Redmond said. It is due to set out from Zagreb today and be made up of 10 trucks from the UNHCR - the office of the UN's High Commissioner for Refugees - and 10 from the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia.

The UNHCR vehicles would carry 96 tonnes of food and medicines, some 20-30 percent of

which would be delivered to rebel Muslims in the north of Bihac who are allied to the Croatian and Bosnian Serbs and insist they be supplied as well as besieged Muslims.

Earlier, Redmond said an effective blockade by Croatian and Bosnian Serbs had created "an extremely dramatic situation" for many destitute people, mainly in the southern part of the enclave held by forces of the Moslem-led Bosnian government.

"There are several hundreds of them, if not thousands... these people are slowly starving," he told reporters. "We demand to be given access to help these innocent people," he added.

"We don't know of anyone who has starved to death yet but it's certainly possible in the very near future if this (Serb blockade) continues..."

"We think the most vulnerable

include children, elderly people, and the sick. Many have been displaced several times and are in dire straits. They have little more than scraps left to eat."

The announcement that the Croatian Serbs had cleared the convoy came after Bosnian Serb authorities in their headquarters of Pale failed to authorize another convoy which was to have passed through their territory to supply Bihac.

Redmond told a news briefing earlier in the day that both Bosnian and Croatian Serbs had been "stringing us (the UNHCR) along" by saying they would agree to convoys but then failing to provide the necessary signatures on transit documents.

He also said requests to the UN and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) for air drops of food to the beleaguered enclave had so far been turned

down because of the threat from Serb anti-aircraft batteries.

"Ultimately, responsibility rests with those who are blocking us... it would be an absolute horror for the international community to see these people starve," the UNHCR spokesman told a news briefing.

Bihac town in the south of the pocket, a Moslem enclave surrounded by Serb-held territory, is a UN-declared "safe area". Some 80 per cent of the region's population of 200,000 are believed gathered in or around it.

The town has been under siege by both Bosnian and Croatian Serbs, and the rebel Muslims since a Bosnian army break-out from the pocket last autumn was beaten back. Serbs say they aim to prevent another offensive against them from Bihac.

## Peru declares unilateral cease-fire

LIMA (AP) - Peru and Ecuador have both declared victory in their border war and say they'll stop shooting at each other.

Peru announced a unilateral cease-fire to take effect at noon yesterday. It claimed it expelled Ecuadorian troops from the last of three outposts on what it considers Peruvian territory on the disputed jungle border.

Ecuador, however, insisted its forces retained control of the three bases, but welcomed the cease-fire.

"Ecuadorian armed forces will not fire their arms if they are not attacked," said Carlos Larreategui, a government spokesman.

Tentative cease-fires have been announced twice before, but have failed to stop the fighting

that began Jan. 26. Ecuador announced Jan. 31 that it had accepted a cease-fire proposal by peace negotiators in Brazil but Peru later rejected it.

Three days later, Brazil's foreign minister announced that the Andean nations had agreed to a cease-fire, but the two sides couldn't work out the details.

The cease-fire, though, marked the first time both governments said they would stop fighting over the unmarked 78-km section of jungle border 950 km north of Lima and 350 km south of Quito, the Ecuadorian capital.

In a televised address in Peru, President Alberto Fujimori announced that his troops had captured the base of Twintza at the

headwaters of the Cenapa River.

He said the base was the last of three Ecuadorian outposts in the disputed region of the Cordillera del Condor mountains.

"All Peru should know that at this moment... Ecuadorian troops have been expelled from our territory," Fujimori said.

But Larreategui, the Ecuadorian spokesman, invited journalists and the Red Cross to visit Twintza, Base Sur and Cueva de los Tayos to see for themselves that they remain in Ecuadorian hands.

The three bases are in remote, jungle-cloaked mountains and can be reached only by helicopter.

The Peruvian Foreign Ministry said it would invite observers to

verify the cease-fire in the disputed zone.

It also said it was confident that Chile, Brazil, Argentina and the United States could find a permanent solution to the conflict.

The four nations are guarantors of a 1942 treaty that ended a war in which Ecuador lost about half its Amazon territory to Peru. Ecuador later renounced the treaty, before the last section of the border was marked.

Peace talks resumed in Brasilia, Brazil, on Monday with military experts present to try to set truce conditions.

Peru says 38 Peruvian soldiers have died in the fighting and 60 have been wounded. Ecuador admits to 10 soldiers killed and 37 wounded.

## 'Forrest Gump' gets 13 Oscar nominations

BEVERLY HILLS (AP) - *Forrest Gump*, the feel-good hit about a simpleton who triumphs in the end, received 13 Academy Award nominations yesterday, the most for any movie in nearly three decades. Its star, Tom Hanks, got a shot at a second consecutive Oscar for best actor.

The 13 nominations are the most for any movie since 1966's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* The record is 14 nominations, received by *All About Eve* in 1950. *Ben Hur*, which received 12 nominations, won a record 11 Oscars in 1959.

Also nominated for best picture were *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Quiz Show* and *The Shawshank Redemption*.

The winners will be announced March 27 in a ceremony broadcast live from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. TV talk show host David Letterman will be the emcee.

Besides Hanks, who won the award last year for his work as a lawyer with AIDS in *Philadelphia*, the best actor nominees were Morgan Freeman in *The Shawshank Redemption*, Nigel Hawthorne in *The Madness of King George*, Paul Newman in *Nobody's Fool* and John Travolta in *Pulp Fiction*.

Two-time winner Jodie Foster was nominated for best actress for her starring role in *Nell*. She will face Jessica Lange in *Blue Sky*, Miranda Richardson in *Tom and Viv*, Winona Ryder in *Little Women* and Susan Sarandon in *The Client*.

*Forrest Gump* co-producer Steve Tisch, who was celebrating his birthday Tuesday, watched the early morning televised nominations at home with his birthday present, a puppy named Forrest. "When he heard his name, he woke up," Tisch said. "It was all thrilling."

Trailing *Gump* with seven nominations apiece were *Bullies*, *Over Broadway*, *Pulp Fiction* and *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Macedonia's *For the Rain* was picked as one of the five top foreign language films. It will compete against Russia's *Burnt by the Sun*, Taiwan's *Eat Drink Man Woman*, Belgium's *Farinelli: Il Castrato* and Cuba's *Strawberry and Chocolate*. The nominations were the first for both Cuba and Macedonia.

The 13 nominations for *Forrest Gump* ties it with 1939's *Gone With the Wind*, 1953's *From Here to Eternity*, 1964's *Mary Poppins* and *Who's Afraid of Vir-*



Nominees: Tom Hanks, Jodie Foster



(AP)

ginia Woolf?

The film was also nominated for art direction, cinematography, film editing, makeup, original score, sound, sound effects editing, visual effects and adapted screenplay.

The Los Angeles Film Critics Association, on the other hand, picked *Pulp Fiction* as film of the year, with Travolta honored as best actor. The National Society of Film Critics also chose *Pulp Fiction* as best picture.

In the Oscars, approximately 5,000 Academy members vote on the best picture selections. Nominations in other categories are done by specific Academy branches; the nearly 1,300 members of the acting branch, for example, vote on the acting nominations. Special committees nominate the foreign-language, documentary and short films.

Two hundred and forty-eight feature-length films from 1994 were eligible for consideration.

## Cease-fire scrappy in Grozny

NAZRAN, Russia (AP) - Artillery fire sounded in the Chechen capital of Grozny early yesterday, the day a limited cease-fire between Russia and Chechnya was to take effect.

There also were reports of Chechen missile attacks southwest of Grozny.

Still, peace talks were set to resume today in Sleptovsk, in the neighboring republic of Ingushetia, officials there said.

The limited cease-fire pact was reached Monday in talks between Col. Gen. Anatoly Kulikov, commander of Russian troops in Chechnya, and the chief of separatist Chechen forces, Aslan Maskhadov. It called for both sides to stop using heavy artillery. They also agreed in principle to work out a mechanism for exchanging prisoners of war and the dead.

Previous agreements have failed, and many on both sides were skeptical about this one.

"It is impossible to reach agreement with them because their hands are stained with blood," Russian Lt. Gen. Lev Rokhlin, a top commander in the war, told the ITAR-Tass news agency in Moscow.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, meanwhile, said Moscow was ready for talks with Chechen field commanders, the Interfax news agency reported. Many Chechen fighters act independently of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, whom Maskhadov was representing.

Emil Pain, an adviser to President Boris Yeltsin, told ITAR-Tass the cease-fire agreement "gives hope for a non-military settlement of the Chechen conflict."

He said a "cooling period after combat operations" was needed before political negotiations could take place.

Shelling began in the early morning in Grozny, however. And the Interfax news agency said Chechens fired Grad missiles on Russian tanks near Gudi, 20 km southwest of Grozny.

## Horror house widow's trial to go ahead

DURSLEY (Reuters) - Alleged serial killer Rosemary West will be tried by jury for Britain's "House of Horrors" murders. A magistrate ruled yesterday the case against her had not died along with her husband Fred.

The woman accused of being one of Britain's most bloodthirsty killers sat slouched and gave no outward sign of distress or surprise. Lawyers said they had prepared her for bad news.

The matronly 41-year-old housewife, whose husband was found dead in his prison cell on New Year's Day, is accused of killing 10 young women over two decades, the latest being her own daughter Heather who vanished aged 16 in 1987.

After six days of committal proceedings, magistrate Peter Badge said West would stand trial for the murders and additional charges of unlawful sex with, and indecent assault of, a stepdaughter and a woman known only as Witness A.

"I am satisfied...that sufficient evidence has been laid before me to put the defendant on trial for murder on all the 10 counts," Badge told the tiny court in Dursley, near West's home town of Gloucester in western England.

West, wearing a white blouse, cream cardigan and glasses, gazed blankly at Badge as he announced his decision.

Her lawyer Leo Goatey said outside the courthouse: "Mrs West maintains innocence and strenuously denies all the charges against her."

West will stand in the dock alone after the death of her husband who was jointly charged with the murders and on his own of killing two other women.

The trial, sure to be Britain's most sensational since two boys were convicted of murdering toddler James Bulger in 1993, is set to be heard this autumn at London's famed Old Bailey criminal court or in the ancient southern town of Winchester.

Nine bodies were unearthed a year ago at her now notorious inner city home at 25, Crownwell Street in Gloucester.

The dead were young single women, ranging from teenage runaways to a Christian student and a Swiss tourist.



# Critical US report on human rights angers Egypt

JOHN LANCASTER  
CAIRO

A highly critical US State Department report on human rights in Egypt has infuriated the Egyptian government, straining the diplomatic and strategic partnership between the two countries.

The report accused the Egyptian security forces of arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial killings and other abuses in their continuing campaign against Moslem extremists. The report echoes charges by human rights groups.

Senior government officials denounced the State Department report as, variously, "lies," "bias" and reliance on information provided by Islamic terrorists.

"It is wrong of the US to draw

a false picture about the situation in Egypt or to support those who work toward that goal," Interior Minister Hassan Alfi said in an interview in the London-based Arabic daily *al-Hayat*.

The remarks were seen by diplomats here as evidence that the government of President Hosni Mubarak feels besieged both by Moslem extremism and now by its superpower patron.

US officials also have voiced displeasure over Egypt's close relationship to Libya and its threat to modify its adherence to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty if Israel does not move toward joining the accord when it comes up for renewal in April. Egypt's \$2.1 billion a year in US aid is second only to Israel's.

The US Embassy said in a statement: "The determination of the US government to combat terrorism is second to none and our cooperation with the Egyptian government in this matter is extensive and of great mutual importance."

"Our commitment to the prosperity and security of Egypt and our close relationship are beyond doubt."

Security forces recently have intensified a crackdown on radical Moslem groups seeking to overthrow Mubarak's secular government and replace it with an Islamic state. They are bull-

dozing houses of suspected militants, staging roundups in villages and detaining prominent figures in the Moslem Brotherhood.

NEWS AGENCIES reported that police killed four suspected Moslem extremists hiding in a house in southern Egypt Saturday and that a 17-year-old bystander was killed in another shootout.

Suspected Moslem terrorists shot and killed a policeman as he returned home at the end of the same day, police officials said. The attack took place in the vil-

lage of Idwa in el-Minya province, 220 km. south of Cairo. Ali Rashid Abdel-Sattar died immediately, and his attackers escaped.

In a case that has aroused intense concern from human rights groups, security forces last month temporarily detained the widow of Abdel Harith Madani, a lawyer for Islamic groups who died under suspicious circumstances in police custody last April. Government censors then banned a story on the detention slated for the front page of next week's *Middle East Times*, an English-language weekly distributed in

Egypt. The story, quoting a family lawyer, said security forces had intimidated Madani's widow into silence. (See Press Digest.)

In recent statements to the Arab press, Egyptian government officials have reacted angrily to rising international condemnation of the country's human rights record.

Maj. Gen. Raouf Manawi, the Interior Ministry spokesman, told the government-controlled *al-Ahram Weekly* that the State Department report consisted of "lies and fabrications. Upon close reading, the deliberate intention to do harm to Egypt becomes clear," Manawi said.

Adel Saffi, an assistant of the foreign minister, was quoted in the same account as saying that

the report was based on "hearsay." He said its accusation that police have carried out illegal killings was based on accounts provided by "relatives of prisoners and terrorists.... The truth is that it is the terrorists who open fire at random."

Interior Minister Alfi reserved some of his harshest comments for Human Rights Watch, which he accused of "using information circulated by terrorist elements living abroad," according to the *al-Hayat* account. Human Rights Watch replied that "your government is fully aware of our care in collecting information from eyewitnesses in Egypt because state agents have openly followed our investigators for long periods." (Washington Post)

## Pyjama warriors by night in Sudan

PETER SMERDON  
PAGEE, Sudan

HARDENED by years of brutal war against Khartoum in the bush of southern Sudan, guerrilla commanders choose with care what they wear after dark: pajamas.

Usually striped ones for commanders of the mainstream South Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), who have been fighting Khartoum's Moslem forces since 1983 for self-determination of the Christian and animist south.

As dusk swathes hilltop positions, commanders emerge from thatched huts wearing pajamas in place of camouflage uniforms and settle down to listen - usually in vain - for any mention of Sudan on the BBC Africa Service.

"We try to keep up standards," says a pajama-clad officer as a soldier sings a love song.

Military fatigue has set in on both sides of the grinding conflict. It is a largely dawn-to-dusk war, fought at a fairly slow pace as the sun beats down.

Desperately short of the most basic equipment, many SPLA fighters go to war in bare feet or sandals, torn T-shirts and shorts with a Kalashnikov assault rifle and ammunition pouch.

"It's exceedingly primitive," says an international aid official. "You get the impression things could have been doing the same thing for the past 100 years and still be at it for the next century. It makes you wonder where all the aid money went."

Braced for a dry-season government offensive, rebel defensive lines consist of one-man bolt-holes gouged out of the dirt and a communal bunker for the officers at hilltop bases.

In the parched and largely empty vastness of the south, water boreholes often dictate the pattern of battle for government-held towns and villages, many only a few huts.

Modern transport is at a bare minimum - wheezing trucks captured from the enemy and mounted with old antiaircraft guns and a motley collection of "technical" four-wheel-drive battle wagons battered by dirt roads last graded as long ago as 1948.

Few guards venture out at night beyond the camp perimeter.

At Pagee, a collection of huts at the base of a small hill, sentries were asleep one night in January when Khartoum's forces launched a rare early morning assault through the thick bush.

The first attackers reached within 100 meters of the position before being cut down. The rest were beaten back while a nearby position was also hit by a tank and infantry.

One week later vultures and other scavengers picked gaping holes in the bloated bodies of the enemy, lying where they fell. SPLA officers say they bury only their own dead.

The bodies around Pagee include soldiers in their early teens, showing that like the SPLA the Khartoum military has little concern about the age of those it sends into battle as long as they can hold a Kalashnikov and run.

Abdul Aziz al-Helou, a Moslem with the near-impossible task of head of logistics for the SPLA, says there is no minimum age for fighters but insists forced recruitment of minors has ended. (Reuters)



Iranian women shout against America and Israel as they join thousands of demonstrators in Teheran.(AP)

## Islamic Iran marks 16th anniversary

News agencies  
TEHERAN

THERE were few signs of compromise with the West as marchers thronged the streets of Teheran over the weekend to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

Shouts of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel" rose forth from some parts of the procession, which the Islamic Republic News Agency estimated at several million strong.

However, at the central Azadi Square where they assembled reporters estimated a crowd of about a half million people.

President Hashemi Rafsanjani told the crowd that the West is mistaken if it thinks communism has been replaced as its main threat by fundamentalist Islam.

"They have made a big blunder by drawing such a comparison," he said in the speech, broadcast live on national radio.

Rafsanjani was referring to comments by the chief of the Western military alliance, Willy Claes, who said recently that Moslem "fundamentalism is at least as dangerous as communism was."

The 16 NATO allies agreed last week to set up closer links with Israel, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania to counter what they see as the destabilizing influence of Islamic fundamentalism. During the Cold War, NA-

TO's main function was to defend Western Europe from the Soviet Union.

US House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich seconded Claes's warning. He said the United States must focus its national security policy on the "worldwide phenomenon of Islamic totalitarianism funded and largely directed by the state of Iran."

Rafsanjani said the West's "second mistake" was to assume Iran is meddling other countries' affairs. That error, he claimed, only enhances Islam's appeal.

On February 11, 1979, revolutionaries inspired by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini proclaimed the birth of the Islamic Republic of Iran after overthrowing Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

The following year the nation began an eight-year war with Iraq. It is still trying to recover from the damage the war caused to the oil-dependent economy.

Iran blames the West for its woes.

IRNA characterized the country over the past 16 years as "a nation faced with innumerable plots, mischievous acts and ill-intentions of the enemies."

Despite the anti-Western rhetoric, the mood at the rally was largely festive. Street vendors did brisk business. Families with small children strolled through the streets holding colorful balloons.

Rafsanjani touched on economic woes which have led to public discontent, but did not directly address the flurry of price rises, the shortage of consumer goods and the sharp fall in the value of the Iranian rial.

Instead he lashed out at opponents of his market-oriented economic reforms as "ignorant but perhaps well-wishing people who provide food for foreign media to claim life has become worse and the revolution has not led anywhere."

"The fact that this huge crowd has taken the trouble of showing up today... especially after staying awake part of the night because of this [fasting month of Ramadan], shows their loyalty to the revolution," he added.

A statement read by the rally organizers called on the government "to resolutely continue the antiprofitteering campaign to curb the running inflation and price hikes... [as] the profiteers seek

to cause doubts in the people's mind about the bright future of the Islamic Republic."

A bomb later exploded in a mosque east of Teheran as worshippers listened to a sermon. No injuries were reported.

The bomb, hidden in the library staircase, shattered windows in the Al-Nabi Mosque in Narmak, a small town east of the capital. Neighborhood residents rushed out of their homes, frightened by the blast, reports said.

The incident occurred after celebrations. It was not clear if the bombing had a political motive. The state news agency said a suspect was arrested five hours after the explosion.

## Rushdie still 'must die'

SIX years after Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini condemned novelist Salman Rushdie to death, the Islamic Republic can find no way of circumventing the edict.

Despite years of diplomatic and economic pressure from Britain and the rest of the European Union and condemnation by the UN General Assembly, Iran has stuck to its *fatwa* of February 14, 1989, that Rushdie must be killed for insulting Islam in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

For any Iranian leader to try to overrule the verdict would be like proclaiming himself equal to Khomeini, Iranian experts say. That could be tantamount to committing suicide.

But under European pressure, Mohammad Mehdi Pourmohammadi, Iran's ambassador in Denmark, issued a statement this week saying: "The Iranian government has never, is not and will not in the future send anyone to kill Salman Rushdie."

Sadik J. al-Azm, professor of history at Syria's Damascus University, argued that it is pointless to wait for Teheran to rescind Khomeini's ruling. In accordance with the rules of Islamic jurisprudence, he said, such a judgment cannot be rescinded.

Writing in the *Middle East Report*, al-Azm said: "The only practical course of action is to desist from raising the issue any further, to let the dust settle, to consign it to benign neglect."

Abdul-Qader Tash, former editor of Saudi Arabia's *Al-Moslemoon* newspaper, agreed that ignoring the *fatwa* is the only way of dealing with it. It "would pull the rug from under the feet of the extremists," he said.

But in a *Newsweek* interview published this month Rushdie said that ignoring the issue would lead to attacks on other writers.

In a copycat gesture last year, several groups in Bangladesh offered \$5,000 to anyone who killed author Taslima Nasrin, accused of calling for changes in the Koran. (AP)

## Iran closes condemned paper



A leading hard-line newspaper in Iran has been shut down after publishing an interview with a cleric who accused the government of forsaking the Islamic revolution.

The move appeared to be the latest salvo in a deepening conflict between President Hashemi Rafsanjani, on the defensive over his economic performance, and hard-line opponents who want the country to take an even tougher anti-Western line.

The Farsi-language *Jahan-e Islam* did not appear after last Wednesday, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency and opposition sources abroad.

In the interview, Ali Akbar Mohtashemi charged the government was gagging the hard-line wing and deviating from the principles of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Mohtashemi was removed from the Interior Ministry in 1989 for opposing the president's efforts to revive the private sector and improve relations with the West.

His faction was closely allied to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic republic who died in 1989.

Since then, the hard-liners have been effectively sidelined by Rafsanjani and Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, although they appear to be making a comeback as economic conditions deteriorate.

Rafsanjani lashed out at the radicals in November, accusing them of trying to sabotage his economic policies.

has come in for severe criticism abroad.

The US-based Human Rights Watch-Middle East said it was "a blatant violation of freedom of expression" to ban a story about the arrest of the widow of a lawyer who died in mysterious circumstances in government custody.

Andrew Hammond, a spokesman for *The Middle East Times*, said the government censor ordered a news story removed from the February 12-18 edition about Wafa el-Bakri, the 21-year-old widow of Abdel Harith Madani.

The government censor who handled the case was not immediately available for comment, and another official in the censor's office refused to answer questions.

Medani, a lawyer who defended Islamic extremist suspects, died last April at age 32. The government said the cause was asthma, but human rights activists believe he was tortured.

Wafa el-Bakri told Middle East Watch that members of her family were detained after Medani's death to prevent them from causing a fuss.

IN JORDAN, a government-owned Arabic-language newspaper is suspending publication with immediate effect after five years of steady losses.

*Sawt al-Shaab*, Arabic for the voice of the people, said the decision was adopted by its board of directors upon the recommendation of the government, which owns the majority of shares in the company that publishes the paper.

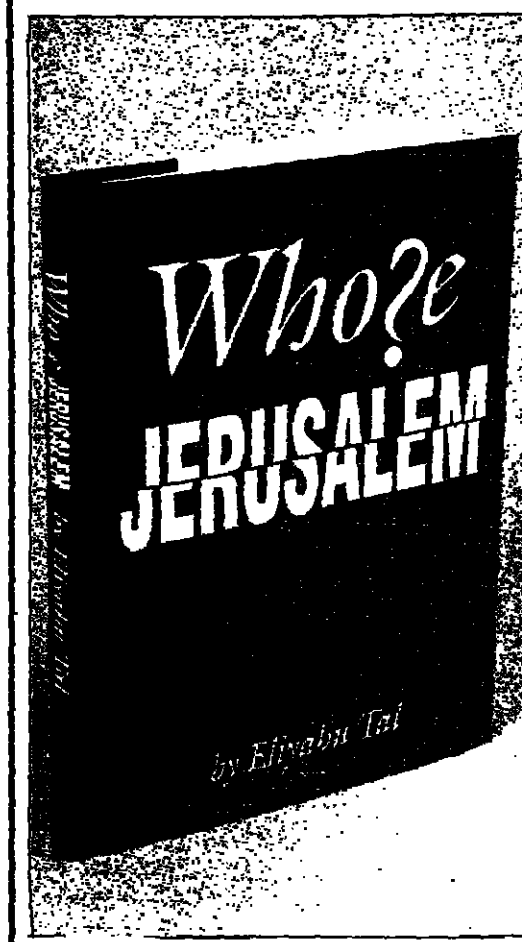
Editor Salameh Akour said the company had lost more than three quarters of its 2 million dinar (\$2.84 million) fund and was continuing to absorb daily losses.

The national newspaper's daily circulation was less than 20,000 in a country of 3.8 million.

Jordan has three other Arabic dailies. *Al-Ra'i* is the kingdom's largest daily, with a circulation of 90,000.

*Ad-Dustour* and *Al-Aswak* each sell about 40,000.

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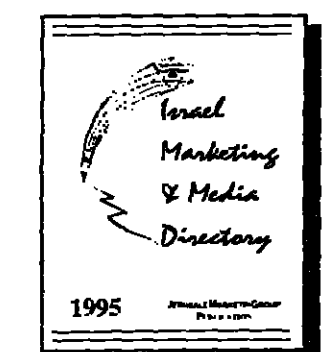
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## The Human Rights report

SOON after signing the Oslo agreement, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was counting the advantages of having the PLO rather than Israel run Gaza and, eventually, the other administered territories. The PLO, he assured Israelis, can fight terrorists ever so much better than Israel, for it need not worry about human rights organizations and the courts.

Unfortunately, only half of his forecast proved prescient. The Palestinian Authority in Gaza is indeed bothered by neither human rights groups nor the courts, but it uses its freedom to incarcerate, torture and kill rivals and "Israeli agents," not terrorists.

On Monday, one of the several Western organizations purportedly concerned with human rights, called "Human Rights Watch/Middle East," published a report which claims to describe conditions in the self-rule areas. It is not very flattering to the PA. It says that the authority "has failed to anchor its conduct in the rule of law," a charge which in a democratic country would be considered the worst possible condemnation.

But somehow it is difficult to imagine that the report is causing the PA's head Yasser Arafat sleepless nights. The chances that he will hear of it, let alone pay it heed, are nil. The only positive result of such an indictment is that it may disabuse chronic PLO defenders of the notion that they are supporting a democratic entity. But even this is doubtful. Apologists for the PLO will find ways of rationalizing even the most heinous abuses of human rights.

Perhaps Israelis should be grateful for such criticisms of the PA. Having suffered the calamity of human rights organizations for so long, it may be comforting to read exhortations of others. But one should remember that like Amnesty International, B'Tselem, Al Haq and many other such groups, Human Rights Watch is an organization with an agenda. If past performance is an indication, its judgment is neither reliable nor trustworthy.

In 1991 the organization (then called Middle East Watch) refused to release a report on Israeli prisons, compiled by Rita Simon, a professor at the American University Law School who previously surveyed prison conditions in China and Tibet. The reason was that it was too favorable to Israel. It contained such heresies as "We found that conditions at detention camps/prisons run by the Israel Defense Forces are neither inhumane nor intolerable. The prisoners look and sound healthy and well-fed...The administrators afford the prisoners a reasonable

degree of dignity and respect."

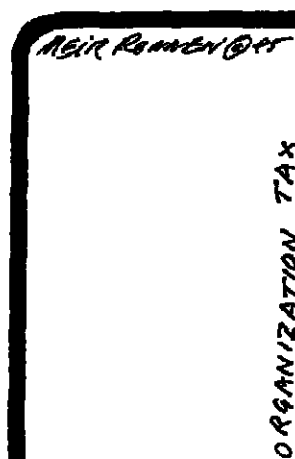
The previous year's report was closer to the organization's agenda. Called "The Israeli Army and the Intifada: Policies that Contribute to the Killings," it charged Israel with using "lethal force in situations that are not life-threatening." Needless to say, the report was released without delay.

Why, then, would the Human Rights Watch bother to criticize the PA? The answer is apparent from the second paragraph of the organization's news release about the report. "Human Rights Watch also concludes that the government of Israel shares blame for the state of human rights in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Israel's still considerable control over the lives of Palestinians in these areas entails significant obligations that Israel has failed to fulfill." Christopher George, executive director of Human Rights Watch/Middle East, said, "After 27 years of military occupation, Israel's responsibilities toward Gazans did not evaporate with the redeployment of its troops."

Israel, it seems, still controls the lives of Gazans by restricting travel "between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank" and by imposing restrictions "in an indiscriminate fashion that amounts to a form of collective punishment. Workers have lost jobs, university students have been forced to miss semesters, and the lives of thousands of persons with legitimate business in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have been disrupted."

This must be the first time any country has been indicted for human rights abuse by refusing to open its own borders to free passage by aliens, let alone to potential killers. It is unimaginable that Washington would be accused of abusing the rights of Mexicans by restricting their entry to the US. Nor would the Swiss be censured for closing their borders to foreign workers. The very idea that Israel is responsible for the human rights of people not under its jurisdiction is a departure from logic and common sense which is nothing short of breathtaking.

That anti-Israel organizations now routinely cloak their political agenda with the jargon of human rights is not only unjust but unfortunate. Their tendentiousness, questionable integrity and diminishing credibility, and their insidious tendency to falsely equate tyrannies with democracies, undermine the fight against real human rights violations - the kind the inhabitants of the world's dictatorships endure with little hope of relief.



## In the dustbin of history

THE brutality with which Moscow is trying to suppress the Chechen secession is obviously not the way in which a democratic country deals with a recalcitrant province. In its ruthlessness it far surpasses anything seen during the Soviet intervention in Budapest in 1956 or Prague in 1968.

A whole people - admittedly a small one, headed by a questionable leader - is trampled in Roman, imperial fashion. That this also heralds the end of democratization in Russia has been pointed out by most Russian democrats.

But the Chechen uprising raises a wider issue. Russia subjugated the Chechens, and other mainly Moslem peoples in the Caucasus, at about the same time in the 19th century that the French conquered Algeria and the British consolidated their power in India; and the methods were no less bloody. Chechnya is as much an "internal" Russian affair as Algeria was an "internal" French affair because, technically, it was a French department.

The Russian presence in Chechnya, and in other areas in the Caucasus, is a result of empire and conquest, and the Chechens have the same right not to live under foreign rule as the Estonians, the Angolans and the Palestinians.

That the Russian empire is territorially contiguous to Russia proper, and not separated by sea or ocean is a mere accident of geography. As Britain and

### SHLOMO AVINERI

France have learned after many vicissitudes and much soul-searching, empires cannot be held together under conditions of democracy.

France in the 1950s had to choose between the collapse of its democratic structure and the abandoning of empire. What France, with a republican tradi-

### The Russian empire has to go the way of all other empires

tion going back to the Revolution of 1789 could not do - preserve both empire and democracy - Russia, with its tenuous hold on democracy and its weak civil society, certainly cannot do.

Any attempt to hold on to the remnants of the Russian empire by force will necessarily reestablish authoritarian, nationalistic and militaristic structures in Russia. Much of it is already happening.

THE APOLOGISTS for empire have always maintained that the end of empire may spell chaos. Yeltsin and his current apologists in the West maintain the same.

Up to a point, this is true: the spectacle of post-imperial Africa is not exactly edifying.

But consider the alternative: Can we imagine how Western de-

mocracies would fare today, and what colonial wars they would be conducting in Africa had the wisdom of such conservative statesmen as Harold Macmillan and Charles de Gaulle not extricated their countries from the conundrum of empire?

The argument can also be reversed: A continuous Russian attempt to hold on by force to its imperial possessions will further destabilize the area, create further tensions with other Moslem nations, and embroil an increasingly authoritarian Russia in a lengthy series of nasty wars which will ultimately alienate it from the West.

Russia should accept that democracy entails decolonization. It should allow those of its constituent republics, where an identifiable ethnic group wishes to secede, to do so peacefully. That these new states, being small and weak, will in the nature of things ultimately become de-facto Russian dependencies - as so many Francophone African nations are dependent on France - is not in itself unreasonable.

But the Russian empire has to go the way of all other empires. Like the British and French empires, it belongs to the dustbin of history.

No democracy can be built in Russia until its leaders realize this.

The writer is professor of political science at the Hebrew University and a former director-general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Money talks

YOSEF GOELL

IT would be the height of naivete to claim that in some past golden age, Israeli politics and politicians were insulated against the undue influence of money and moneyed interests. Never before, however, has Israel's growing moneyed class evinced such an open and brutal impact on public affairs as in the recent repeal of the capital gains tax.

The whole sorry exercise began early on in the present government, when Prime Minister Rabin promised a meeting of businessmen that as long as he was prime minister, there would never be a tax on capital gains. Then, last August, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat talked Rabin into imposing a ludicrously minimal tax on stock-market profits.

In December, rumors began circulating that Rabin had again changed his mind; and at the end of January, Rabin did indeed revert to type and order Shohat to kill the law that had already been passed by a handy Knesset majority. Shohat caved in.

It is worrisome that Rabin, who has little interest in and just as little knowledge of economic matters, took his stand on the capital-gains issue in response to the pressure of the moneyed co-

### The rich running Israeli politics? It could happen

terie who are his close personal friends. Of even greater interest is the extent to which these circles influenced the portrayal of the entire issue in the media, especially on TV.

The misleading message projected was that the tax would primarily hit the little man. The message to the politicians was that hundreds of thousands of enraged small-time investors would vote against the Labor Party in the next elections.

The opposite, of course, was the truth. The people who make the bulk of the profits from the stock market - even during the past year when it was in the dumps, and the vast majority of small players lost their shirts - are the owners and directors of the big private companies and the thousands of brokers, investment advisers, and other market hangers-on. Why then did so many commentators and economic reporters project the opposite impression?

TWO EXPLANATIONS come to mind. One is that over the past few years, the main media outlets, which used to be ideologically or nationally oriented, have been bought or become dominated by members of the newly visible plutocracy. Of even greater import has been the creation of a commercial TV channel, whose franchise operators are the same economic elements.

I also have a gut feeling that the manner in which many of our TV broadcasters project economic news has been profoundly influenced by their own newly-won positions on the income totem pole.

I am pleased that many of my colleagues have climbed out of penury; but the downside is that many of these journalists have begun to project their personal economic interests as representing those of the average Israeli.

This is the explanation for the daily overreporting of stock market news on the two TV channels. It also explains why talk-show host Gabi Gazit patronizingly interviewed a young couple who earn the median on the income ladder - NIS 5,500 per 1.5 earners in a family - and treated them as if they were living in dire poverty.

These aspects of a changing (for the worse) Israel are serious enough. A much greater cause for concern is the potential impact of the growth of such a politically active moneyed class on our politics.

The primary system adopted by most of our parties makes candidates for inclusion on their Knesset lists hungrier than ever for financial support. This may well be a portent of our future politics being dominated by the rich, or by MKs and government ministers overtly or covertly beholden to them.

The writer comments on public affairs.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ABHORRENT POLICY

Sir, - We have written to Prime Minister Rabin on behalf of Temple Israel of Great Neck, comprising more than 1,300 families, to express our outrage at the new policy advocated by the Foreign Ministry of Israel to discontinue the tradition for foreign dignitaries to visit Yad Vashem.

Yad Vashem, by its very name, is an everlasting memorial to the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust. The State of Israel became a reality upon the ashes of our martyred brethren as well as due to the sacrifices of Jews and thousands of Holocaust survivors who fought and died during the War of Independence.

Our survival as a people depends upon tradition and memory. We are cognizant of the saying that "Forgiveness leads to Exile and Redemption." We must adhere to our principles and strengthen them further, thus enhancing the importance of Yad Vashem in the eyes of the world. We must not permit short-sighted political objectives to blind us.

It is, therefore, inconceivable that the present government would change its policy regarding Yad Vashem, thereby diminishing its importance. We, therefore, respectfully urge the prime minister not to implement this abhorrent policy.

MANUEL BARDASH, President  
WILLIAM UNGAR, Survivor  
EDWIN ZOLA, Survivor  
And other members of  
Temple Israel of Great Neck  
Great Neck, N.Y.

### TRUSTWORTHY OFFICER

Sir, - Distasteful as Colonel Gershon Hachoen's remarks ("From time immemorial men have been warriors and women whores"), your columns displayed a distinct lack of judgment in their articles.

One can understand the viewpoint of Susan Hattis Rolef (January 30). As the avowed spokeswoman of certain issues, she must conform to specific guidelines, but we have come to expect much more sensible viewpoints from Yosef Goell (February 2).

I, for one, would entrust my children to a foul-mouthed officer - even a "male chauvinist" - if I were assured of one thing: that he was the most effective battle commander available, and that he would bring my children back alive and in one piece, physically and mentally.

Let us not make the mistake of Stalin who chose his fighting officers for their Communist solidarity. This cost the Russian people untold losses in men, material and homes.

Also, let us not forget Moshe Dayan and his peccadilloes in the fields of sex and archeology.

MICHA SASSOON

Givatayim.

### HISTORICAL MISTAKE

Sir, - Every nation gets the leaders it deserves. Why do we deserve a leadership which is destroying the good things which it first created? Israel is going through the most crucial moment of its existence, the transition from being an alien body artificially surviving thanks to its military strength, to becoming integrated in the environment. The historical challenge is: will we, before it is too late, be able to translate our strength into viable peace agreements?

The government decided to give permission for 800 more houses in Ma'aleh Adumim, after announcing less than a week earlier that it would freeze the settlements and not allow further expansion. To break its word in such a flagrant way is a historical mistake for which all of us will have to pay.

BERTA KEIZER

Tel Aviv.

### THE SO-CALLED CLOSURE

Sir, - The news media have been making much of a so-called closure in the territories since the terror attack at Beit Lid. But, in truth, there is no such closure and never has been.

I commute regularly from Hebron to Beersheba and I can do so almost any time I want to without encountering even one checkpoint, and often without seeing even one soldier. And this is not on side roads or dirt paths, but on major paved roads.

This has been the situation before and after every terrorist attack during the past year or so. And if I can get from Hebron to Beersheba without seeing a checkpoint, then so can any terrorist. From Beersheba, he can get to anywhere in the country. Yellow license plates are easy to get, because Yatta (near Hebron) is the well-known national center for stolen cars. The route without a checkpoint is well-known to the Arabs. And knitted kipot are also cheap.

Of course, if you want to find a checkpoint, you may do so with some effort. There are some showpiece checkpoints in well-traveled places (such as the start of the Dahiya bypass, north of Beersheba, and between Bethlehem and Gilio). But since one can easily cross the Green Line without using these checkpoints, they are like stopping up a few holes in a sieve. Their only purpose is to create an illusion of security.

So the "closure" is just a politician's lie like any other politician's lie. Just like the so-called peace process, the so-called closure exists only in the imaginary world which the government has been using the news media to create. But it does not exist for those of us who ignore that imaginary world and look at reality.

YARUCHAM (FRANK) LEAVITT  
Kiryat Arba.

### USED STAMPS

Sir, - I want to thank all your nice readers who, five months after my letter appeared, continue to send me their used stamps for processing in favor of Akim's Irene Gaster Hostel. For those who have lost my address, may I remind them that it is 52 Bethlehem Road, Jerusalem.

ADOLF SAENGER

## The looking-glass world

WRITERS from both the left and the right have already said that the idea of separation is the opposite of the idea of peace.

It's certainly a long way from Shimon Peres's vision of a common market, free movement, and motorways between Damascus and Ashdod to Moshe Shahal's vision of dogs, electronic fences and minefields at the approaches to Kfar Sava. But the untiring spokesmen of the looking-glass world are still telling us that no concept has failed, and the two visions really amount to the same thing.

The most fervent among them write brilliant hair-splitting arguments to prove that separation will have exactly the opposite effect: the higher we raise the walls, the lower the incidence of hostility on the other side will be.

Minefields, apparently, will promote cooperation - and if we throw in tanks and machine-gun nests as well, we'll see the dawn of eternal friendship.

But most of Oslo's advocates set their sights lower than this. They tell us that Peres's "peace" is poetic license, like "Greater Jerusalem," and that, in fact, separation was exactly what the Oslo agreement intended all along.

The problem is that the concept of separation without peace has already been tried and has failed.

IN GAZA, separation already exists. The IDF has pulled out, the Palestinians are in control, the fence has already been put up. The security guards accompanying the gasoline tank who were attacked last week weren't occupiers, but invited guests. They weren't in the area under IDF control and they didn't go to any settlements. And they were still shot at.

And, of course, the murderers at Beit Lid came from separated Gaza. The wall didn't bother them.

### URI ELITZUR

The Arabs of Gaza not only sneak easily through the electronic fence, they manage to smuggle stolen cars through by the hundreds. They even know how to steal the fence itself. Sometimes, in one night, they saw the brand-new high-grade metal posts off hundreds of meters of fencing - not to break a way through, just

### If separation doesn't work, try a bit more separation...

to steal the metal. Our small, intelligent, electronic army usually only finds out about it in the morning.

The response of the separation brain trusts will probably be that we should put up another fence, dogs, mines, and some more machine-gun nests. If separation doesn't work, try a bit more separation.

But the mistake isn't the way the idea has been carried out. It's the idea itself.

After one recent attack, Rabin tried to defend himself by saying that there has always been terror, and that since the withdrawal from Gaza there's been no increase in attacks, only in victims.

In other words, it's all in the luck of the draw. There was terror before too, but the terrorists

were unlucky and didn't manage to kill so many people.

I sincerely hope Rabin isn't fooling himself as well. It's nothing to do with luck, it's because of the separation.

Even before the separation of Gaza there were car bombs and booby traps; but they were improvised, constructed mostly of used gas cylinders, bags of nails and primitive trigger mechanisms.

Many of these attacks were foiled in advance; in many other cases, the explosives didn't go off or, if they did, didn't cause much damage. That wasn't luck. It was because we were in Gaza.

The war to thwart terror is based on two elements: field intelligence and blocking access to adequate armaments and explosives.

Now, after the separation of Gaza, we have no eyes and ears, and they have plenty of guns and bombs. That makes fences, dogs, and concrete walls look like a very poor second-best. They won't stop a determined terrorist, or keep him from his target. All they will do is stop us from arriving in time to foil the attack.

After the pathetic attempt at separation in Gaza, if there's still anyone who doesn't know what we're doing in the casbah in Nablus, they should go to Dizengoff Street or the Beit Lid junction and find out.

(Courtesy of Yediot Aharonot)

## POSTSCRIPTS

A FRIEND swears this story is true: he was visiting in Florida and attended an Orthodox shul catering to retired people. An older man was called to perform *hagba* (lifting the Torah). He hoisted it, uttered a little *brechitz*, and said, "Jesus, it's heavy!"

After a moment of uneasy silence, an elderly fellow hollered: "For Christ's sake don't drop it!"  
Queenie Parnes

THREE INMATES used the tiny wheelbarrow piece from a Monopoly game to break out of jail in Conway, Arkansas.

They used the wheelbarrow to remove tamper-resistant screws on air duct coverings, crawled through to the roof and lowered themselves three storeys to the ground using bedding as a rope.

1501-1500



# Breaking the status quo on women stuck in marriage

Women are pinning their hopes on a Knesset bill which would help persuade recalcitrant husbands to grant a divorce, reports **Sasha Sadan**

**P**IA Besserman became sensitized to the issue of divorce law six years ago when her husband went to visit his parents in Florida.

He hasn't come back yet. Besserman, 44, a graphic designer who lives in Haifa with two teenage daughters, filed for divorce in district court five years ago.

She estimates that by court order her husband owes her enough unpaid child support, plus interest, for her to buy out his half of their apartment - if she could enforce the order.

In recent visits to Jerusalem, Besserman has been involved in organizing support for a bill, currently being considered by the Knesset Law Committee, which would help persuade recalcitrant husbands to grant a divorce.

It would penalize spouses who delay divorce cases for years by taking away their right to get a passport, open a bank account, and hold any kind of civil-service job (including, for example, working for a municipal council or the police).

The slew of restrictions, and how they would be applied, has evolved slowly. Similar bills have been introduced - but not passed - in private member's bills in the previous Knesset.

The present bill is government-sponsored and has the blessing of the Religious Affairs Ministry, a significant point because divorces in this country are granted only in rabbinic courts.

It is these courts that will be empowered to enforce restrictions once a husband has been ordered by a court to grant a *get* (bill of divorce) and does not do so within 30 days.

Even if the new bill is passed, it won't solve Besserman's problem. Her husband would remain unaffected by the legislation as long as he is out of the country.

"She also fears the proposed law which still falls short of forcing a husband to grant his wife a divorce, will do little to help thousands of women in this country who are locked into marriage against their will."

"Nobody knows how many there are," she says. "There may be 8,000 or there may be 16,000."

The two large services-oriented women's organizations, Na'amat and Wizo, put forth the 8,000 figure, says Rahel Ben-Zion of the Israel Women's Network.

The higher 16,000 figure is favored by Daniela Valency, the founder of the Organization to

Help Agunot and Those Denied Divorce.

"Every time we go on TV or on Yossi Sayas's radio show, we hear from women who never heard of our organization," says Valency. "Last time it was a woman who had been waiting for 16 years for a divorce and never told anyone about it. She was afraid of her husband."

According to the rabbinate, there are 500 women here bound in marriage.

The disparity in the numbers reflects very different perceptions of the situation.

For the rabbinate, the 500 figure refers to those women who under Halacha are classified as an *aguna*, an abandoned woman, one whose husband has disappeared or refused to grant a divorce even though the court has ordered him to do so or issued the stronger ruling of a compulsory *get*, or women who on the court records have been waiting upwards of three years for a divorce.

Valency includes all women who want out of marriage but are stonewalled by their spouses. Her organization has 700 members and about 1,500 women who have called in with distressing stories.

That figure is going to grow dramatically, she promises, but she won't reveal details until February 16. In cooperation with Eran, her organization has run a phone outreach campaign during January, advertising in the local press and taking phone calls from women who don't know what to do about their situation.

The women's organizations insist the term *aguna* should be used for all women whose husbands keep them in court battling for a *get*. "What we are talking about is 'institutionally sanctioned extortion and blackmail,'" says Jerusalem lawyer Susan Weiss, who has also handled divorce cases in rabbinic court and the civil courts.

Lesley Sachs, spokeswoman of the Israel Women's Network, compares the phenomenon of women locked in wedlock to that of battered wives. For a long time society just refused to see the dimensions of the problem, she says.

The women themselves don't realize they are experiencing something that's more than just their private problem.

In simple terms, a woman usually can receive her *get* if she meets her husband's financial demands - either handing over all



Rabbinical pleader Teyna Akerman (right): "The wife is not always the victim." (Anat Jeronimski)

or most of joint assets or giving up any demand for child support.

The thousands of women referred to by the women's organizations are just such cases, says Besserman, who three years ago joined Haifa's Woman-to-Woman collective as a lobbyist on this issue.

As one example, she cites a woman, now 52, who had been waiting 10 years for a *get* and was then confronted by her husband in rabbinic court with a statement signed by her agreeing to forfeit half their property. "So many women don't know the law and they panic," says Besserman. "This woman was battered and she was afraid to open her mouth and say the signature was forged."

The husbands get away with it, because of a conservative approach to Halacha and the way the rabbinic courts work, says Weiss.

"On a practical level," she says, "the rabbinical court had adopted a 'separate property regime' concerning mutual property. If property is registered in your name, it's yours. In dividing up the property acquired after a marriage, the rabbis are likely to decide that a car, a business or an apartment registered in a husband's name is his. Halacha does not grant the wife an interest in her husband's property on the modern theory that the wife worked in the home and thereby facilitated the acquisition of property by the husband. Halacha compensates the wife for her efforts by obligating the husband to support his wife, not to share his property with her."

Another problem, says Weiss, is that the rules of procedure and of evidence applied by the beit din are more fluid than those applied by the civil courts. The stan-

dards of proof and the rules of evidence required by the civil courts are more rigorously defined and enforced than those of the beit din. The idea of "due process" checks and balances the activities of the civil court judges.

But the biggest problem is that the rabbis honor a hallowed principle of Halacha - a man cannot be forced to give his wife a *get*. So the idea of ordering a man to give a divorce is quite rare, Weiss says.

Even if the rabbis order a man to give a *get*, or issue the stronger compulsory *get*, it doesn't mean the husband has to honor it. But such a decision ordering a man to give a divorce is quite rare, Weiss says.

She mentions a case she had five years ago in which the rabbinic court would not issue such an order, even though "the husband was schizophrenic and a pedophile."

He yielded to pressure and changed his stance on a *get* after Weiss took her client, the wife, to civil court over the amount of child support she received from her estranged husband.

The rabbinic court gave her NIS 500 and when the civil court upped the sum to NIS 2,000 a month, the husband cut a deal and granted a divorce. Today, Weiss adds, her client has a new husband and more children.

Rabbinic pleader Gittit Nachliel says "most often the man has the upper hand economically, and this greatly enhances his ability, time and moneywise, to battle a case in court."

The time it takes to finish a divorce case works against a woman psychologically, Nachliel says. A woman knows her biological clock is ticking away, and it's going to be that much harder for her to find a new mate as the years pass.

Many cases never get as far as the rabbinic court, says Ben-Zion. Or if they do, the husband suddenly expresses an interest in another try at the marriage, and the divorce file is closed, only to be reopened months or years later.

The wife, of course, is not always the victim, says rabbinic pleader Teyna Akerman. She is currently handling a case of a newly observant Russian immigrant who made it clear to his wife before they married that he wanted a religious life-style.

The issue proved divisive, the couple split, and the wife - a computer programmer - has no interest in going out to work as long as she's getting NIS 2,000 a month in support from her husband, whose total monthly income is around NIS 2,500. She also refuses to accept a *get*.

Just before Hanukka, Akerman says she obtained an order for a compulsory *get* in a case in which the rabbinate was commendable for its compassion.

Last June the husband slipped out of the country, even though Akerman - who had just entered the case at that point - issued a restraining order to block his exit "on his eight known passport numbers" and had given his picture to the Border Police.

The rabbinate hired a private investigator to locate the hus-



Pia Besserman is pushing hard for the bill that will penalize spouses who delay divorce. (Brian Hendler)

band abroad, and he was found in France in July.

Although the local Jewish community there was no help in pressing him for a divorce, he returned to Israel and a phone tip led to his arrest.

The day he was brought to rabbinic court - "and the *davanim* [judges] sat waiting for him for two hours" - Akerman got her order for a compulsory *get*, she says.

Akerman says women have to work on their own case and too often are passive.

"Your standing in the court is a reflection of how you walk in," she says. "If you walk in there and think you're right and you are right, then your standing is good. If you walk in there and think you're crippled, then you are crippled."

Weiss and Nachliel disagree. "Too often, the rabbis have a different view from the average modern man," says Nachliel.

Weiss cites the Bavlil decision in the Supreme Court last year in which a Haifa woman thought the rabbinic court decision on property settlement in her divorce was totally unfair and appealed.

The Supreme Court agreed and called for a 50-50 settlement. It also called on the rabbinic courts to follow civil law, and not rabbinic law, in settling property matters in divorce cases.

The case is now back with the rabbinic court and Bavlil's lawyer has filed another petition with the Supreme Court. Bavlil is still waiting for her 50-50 settlement.

Feminists are taking a wait-and-see attitude on how the rabbis will administer the proposed bill authorizing sanctions against recalcitrant husbands.

Weiss, Nachliel and Besserman are activists in a broad network of women's organizations formed in 1942 called the International Coalition for Agunot Rights (ICAR).

ICAR set up a committee with the Chief Rabbinate to work on halachic means of finding solutions for *agunot*. Though the committee was set up more than a year ago, it has had only one working meeting.

The rabbinate is the source of the delays, say ICAR activists.

Besserman shakes her head in sorrow over the situation. She says that every woman contemplating marriage should work out a prenuptial contract with her fiancé that would outline the settlement for a *get*, should the need arise.

Besserman reflects on her own situation, abandoned and not divorced, and says with hindsight: "I never thought it would happen to me."

## ACRI troubled by focus of proposed law

**T**HE Association for Civil Rights (ACRI) in Israel is troubled by the focus of the proposed law on recalcitrant men.

The bill would penalize spouses who delay divorce cases for years by taking away their right to get a passport, open a bank account, and hold any kind of civil service job.

"At the beginning we were against the proposed law because it would apply to men alone," ACRI's Netta Ziv says. "After we

looked into the issue and realized that women do not have the same standing as men in Halacha, nor the same standing in the rabbinic courts, we changed our position."

She says the rabbinic court figures that while 50 men cannot get their wives to accept a divorce, some 500 women are in the parallel position.

Men have an alternative route of action, she notes. In rare instances they have obtained permission to take a second spouse

which is denied women in Jewish law, or they can choose to live out of wedlock with someone else and have children.

The children of a woman who did this would be labeled *mamzerim*, and by Jewish law not allowed to marry Jews.

"Women here are losing their right to be free from marriage and to have children, rights that are recognized in all international covenants and not respected in Israel," she said. S.S.

## Naomi Amir: Compassionate pioneer

**P**ROF. Naomi Amir, a pioneer in the field of pediatric neurology and a beloved figure to her patients and their parents, died early last month at age 63, leaving a legacy of caring and accomplishment.

She treated children with a wide range of disabilities, ranging from sleep problems to encephalitis and autism, but never allowed a child, no matter how disabled, to feel stigmatized or inadequate.

Her philosophy was epitomized by a badge on a big teddy bear she gave her young patients to cuddle. It read "I may not be perfect, but parts of me are excellent."

Amir was born in 1931 in Chicago, and immigrated here with her parents and brother when she was four years old.

After several years in the country, she returned with her brother and mother to the U.S., where she completed her undergraduate and medical studies, earning her MD from New York University's Bellevue Medical School.

Amir then returned to Israel, and completed her residency in neurology at Hadassah-University Hospital.

Upon completing her training, she decided to dedicate her career to pediatric neurology, a subspecialty not recognized at the time at Hadassah.

In 1963, Dr. Helena Kagan, then head of the pediatric department of Bikur Holim Hospital,



Professor Naomi Amir "used her profession to bring people together."

invited her to set up a pediatric neurology clinic there. The clinic rapidly expanded to become a national referral center for children with wide-ranging neurological problems.

In 1972 she established a rehabilitation kindergarten program for neurologically handicapped children, and was closely involved with the city council committees that dealt with special-education programs. She acquired an international reputation and was frequently asked to chair prestigious symposia.

Her special interests were the fields of epilepsy, cognition, dys-

phasia and various developmental disorders, but she treated a wide variety of disabilities.

She also worked with the Arab community in eastern Jerusalem, being affiliated with Spafford Children's Hospital near the Damascus Gate.

She served as a consultant at Mokassess Hospital and in addition worked at a clinic in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem.

"I fully believe it is people who live together, even if governments don't always see eye to eye," she would say. "I use my profession to bring people together."

Prof. Amir joined the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in 1990, establishing its department of pediatric neurology.

The department now has a center for augmentative communication for the handicapped, a diagnostic EEG laboratory with long-term video monitoring facilities and a sleep laboratory.

Upon learning she was ill, she was determined that the news should not spread, as she didn't want to worry the hundreds of families who depended on her. She would accept patients in the morning, and then go almost incognito to Shaare Zedek's Oncology Institute for her chemotherapy treatment.

Amir left a husband, three children and five grandchildren. Her compassion, brilliance and humanity will be sadly missed. D.W.

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## Turbowicz gives go ahead for sale of ICL to Eisenberg

**MONOPOLIES** Supervisor Yoram Turbowicz yesterday gave the go ahead for selling the 24.9 percent controlling stake of Israel Chemicals (ICL) to Israel Corporation chairman Shaul Eisenberg.

Turbowicz's approval did not impose any conditions on the sale.

The decision was forwarded to

the Israel Corporation, Balmor (which Eisenberg controls), the Government Companies Authority, the ministers of finance and industry and trade, and the Knesset Finance Committee.

The committee will continue its deliberations today on whether to

approve the sale. On Tuesday, the committee decided to delay the vote on the sale, pending receipt of Turbowicz's opinion.

Several committee members have expressed reservations about selling ICL to Eisenberg, since, they fear, it will concen-

trate too much of the economy in his hands.

Concerns have also been expressed over possible conflicts of interest with other Eisenberg holdings, such as the phosphates factory he is setting up in China; Zim, which is a major supplier to ICL, and the Israel Oil Refineries.

## Firms withdraw from Shikun Ufituah tender

Deadline for submitting bids is 1 p.m. today

**GALIT LIPKIS BECK**

tender in partnership with Aurec. Africa Israel deputy managing director Shimon Harel said the company decided to pull out due to the current negative atmosphere on the capital market.

He also said the company expected more attractive investment possibilities to be available in the future in other fields besides real estate.

Harel said the Africa Israel group has a \$500 million investment plan, which, in addition to real estate, was allocated for investments in hotels, insurance and industry.

With the withdrawal of the Engel-Atz Lavud consortium, five

groups plan to take part in the tender.

A group made up of Gad Zavi, Uri Dori and Mizrahi Investments decided to pull out of the tender last week.

The Government Companies Authority has given potential bidders until 1 p.m. today to submit bids.

Besides the Fishman-Hapoalim-Dankner group, the other consortiums are Azorim, the Renaissance Fund and Israel Corp. group; Ted Arson in partnership with Property and Buildings and Fibi; Yisra; and the Kahtan Brothers - Asad consortium.

Government appraisers have recently valued the company at more than NIS 1 billion.

## Hapoalim decides to reorganize

**GALIT LIPKIS BECK**

**BANK** Hapoalim's board of directors has decided to adopt management's proposals for changing the bank's organizational structure, a Hapoalim spokesman announced yesterday.

The proposals, approved at a board of directors meeting Monday evening, were based on McKinsey international consultancy firm's recommendations.

Hapoalim said the proposals are the next step in the reorganization process which started in 1993. The plan mainly involves strategic changes to the bank's branches, including services given to customers.

The new strategy divides Hapoalim's customers into sectors - households, private banking, businesses and conglomerates.

The bank's marketing and service reorganization differentiates between the sectors, according to customers' needs.

The strategy also involves offering comprehensive services to large conglomerates and improving services to all customers.

The plan involves changing the division of responsibilities at the bank and branches in an attempt to speed up service to customers seeking banking advice.

Hapoalim has also decided to expand its activities in the capital market by developing and managing capital market instruments, based on investment banking concepts.

Other measures include management of central control centers to regulate Hapoalim's exposure to risk and other dangers.

Hapoalim's senior management will be divided into four divisions and seven sub-divisions.

The bank said Joseph Dauber will manage the commercial banking division, Moshe Amit will manage the companies and institutions business banking division, Shimon Ravid will be in charge of the financial network division and Alexander Yablman will head the property management division.

Hapoalim said the reorganization is necessary due to changes in the banking sector, on the local market and worldwide.

The bank said the changes reflect increased competition, globalization of financial markets, technological advancements and customers changing needs.

## Ben-Eliezer warns against unsupervised buying of land

**GALIT LIPKIS BECK**

**HOUSING** Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer warned yesterday he would not allow the unsupervised buying of large tracts of land by entrepreneurs connected to the ultra-Orthodox.

Some 30,000 housing units are currently in construction in Beit Shemesh, and the ministry will allocate about 5,000 housing units for the ultra-Orthodox.

"I have to answer the needs of the ultra-Orthodox, just like any other sector," Ben-Eliezer said.

However, he said if unsupervised takeovers continue, he would not hesitate to use his powers to cancel tenders.

Recently, players in the real estate market have said most of the contracts in Beit Shemesh

have been won by contractors connected with the ultra-Orthodox, who have conspired with them to sell only to that sector.

Ben-Eliezer said his ministry plans to concentrate its marketing on Beit Shemesh this year after having centered most of its efforts on Modi'in last year.

Speaking at a conference organized by Maldan, the association of real estate agents, Ben-Eliezer also said the government should approve the employment of 9,000 foreign construction workers immediately and another 20,000 soon.

Contractors Association President Mordechai Yona rejected Ben-Eliezer's contention that prices will stabilize.

Instead, he said they will increase and criticized government



**Ben-Eliezer: Won't hesitate to use his powers to cancel tenders for construction.**

officials who have advised the public to wait to buy apartments in Modi'in until prices fall.

## Farmers: Raising our water rates will hinder growth of key crops

**GALIT LIPKIS BECK**

**RAISING** the price of water for agriculture by seven percent will significantly hinder farmers' ability to grow crops, representatives of the Agriculture Center warned yesterday.

"Farmers' ability to grow produce will significantly be reduced, leading to a drop in the supply of produce to customers, if the Finance Committee decides to approve the government's proposal to raise the price of water," said the Agricultural Cen-

ter's representatives.

The Knesset Finance Committee is expected to decide on the issue this week.

The representatives said water prices for farmers have reached a world record of 18 cents per cubic meter, even before the proposed rate hike.

The representatives warned the proposed rise will significantly hinder growth of avocados, citrus fruits and tomatoes.

## Magen: Kibbutzim should pay off debts with assets before seeking more aid

**Post Business Staff**

**KNESSET** State Control Committee chairman David Magen said yesterday he would demand that the finance minister not approve any additional aid for the kibbutzim unless their holdings in Tnuva, estimated at billions of shekels, are used to pay off some of their debts.

Magen said it was inconceivable for the kibbutzim, which are in dire financial straits, to expect additional massive public assistance aid without first using their own assets to pay off some of their debts.

Magen was speaking at a discussion of the duties of the co-operatives registrar, who also supervises Tnuva, which is registered as a cooperative. Magen had received several requests to look

into the matter.

The state comptroller said in her report that the registrar's area of operations and scope of authority warranted review.

Regulations concerning the co-operatives do not reflect recent developments, particularly in agriculture, as some of the rules concerning the moshav cooperatives have not been updated since being introduced between the 1930s and 1960s.

As part of an overall review of the situation, the comptroller called for re-examining the registrar's role.

Magen said he would put together a group of MKs to study the matter and present legislation to redefine the registrar's responsibilities.

## BP profits surge in '94

**LONDON (Reuters)** - The British Petroleum Co said yesterday it boosted replacement-cost net income by nearly 70 percent to £1.52 billion in 1994, helped by sharply lower costs and strong profits from chemicals.

The oil major, Britain's third largest company by market value, raised its quarterly dividend 20 percent to three pence.

Chief executive and deputy

chairman David Simon said the results were the firm's best since 1986, and the performance was likely to continue in 1995.

"Economic activity is looking likely to remain as sound as that in 1994," he said.

BP said lower operating and finance costs, an improved sales mix and higher chemicals margins toward the year-end more than offset an 8 percent fall in oil prices over the year and a 21 percent decline in worldwide oil refining margins.

"The numbers are stronger than we expected," said Credit Lyonnais analyst Jurjen Lunshof, who predicts a 1995 net profit of £1.8b. But BP shares dipped on profit-taking and fell seven pence to 419 pence.

Replacement-cost profit before exceptional items rose 32 percent for the year to £1.48b.

Replacement-cost profit in the fourth quarter rose to £411 million from £34m, a year earlier as strong chemicals and improved exploration and production outweighed falls in refining margins.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Phoenicia glass company signs deal with Egyptian firm:** A commercial-technical cooperation agreement was signed yesterday between the Phoenicia glass company of Yeroham and National Glass of Egypt. Phoenicia general manager Pini Shahaf called the agreement "further evidence of the benefits of peace to the region."

Under the pact, a forum of professionals from both factories will meet regularly to solve problems. Phoenicia, a wholly-owned Koor subsidiary, is the country's sole manufacturer of bottles for the food industry and supplies 300 million bottles a year, 80 percent of the local market.

*Amir Rozenblit*

**The Israel Electric Corporation announced it has virtually completed the task of separating customers who shared a single-phase fuse box with a neighbor.** Israel Corp. general manager Rafi Peled announced that 185,000 shared main fuses have been separated since the campaign began following the harsh winter of 1991-92.

Some 40,000 customers who still share a main fuse with a neighbor have either not bothered to apply for a separation or use so little electricity that they have no need for a change, the Israel Corp. said. If they apply now, their fuse box will be separated within a few days, the company said.

**Tefahot Israel Mortgage Bank announced it is offering record-high interest on a savings plan.** The bank is offering 4.2 percent interest on deposits of more than NIS 1 million. The high interest will be offered only on the first two years of the plan.

**Ormat announced to the stock exchange yesterday it has sold some NIS 1.9 million outstanding capital share in a private placement last week to Thames Holdings of the Pratt and Whitney group.**

**The Baran Group announced it will form a 50 percent partnership with Advanced Logistics Development.** Baran will invest \$1.2 million in A.L.D., which develops off-the-shelf product security software.

## WORLD BRIEFS

**German engineering sector lurches closer to strike:** West Germany's crucial engineering industry lurches one step closer to a damaging strike yesterday when the leadership of the IG Metall union set a provisional date for a strike vote next week. Klaus Zwickel, president of the three million-strong union, said the union aimed to hold a strike vote on February 20-22 and start walk-outs before the end of February.

Employers in Germany's key automotive, electronics and heavy engineering industries have so far declined to make a pay offer in response to the union's six percent pay claim, insisting that any rise must be linked to a reduction in costs.

*Reuters*

**Britain clears Trafalgar bid for Northern:** Britain yesterday opened the floodgates on its privatized utility sector by clearing a controversial £1.2 billion bid by Trafalgar House for regional electricity company Northern Electric. Shares in the electricity sector surged in hectic trade as Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine said in a statement that he had decided against referring the bid for investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Heseltine said the engineering conglomerate had given him assurances that it would comply with electricity industry watchdog Offer in helping it carry out regulatory functions. The long-awaited move sends the ball back into Northern's court in its bitter struggle for independence against a bid it has condemned as derisory and wholly inadequate.

*Reuters*

**Hanson profits leap as Quantum boosts earnings:** Anglo-US conglomerate Hanson reported a sharp jump in first-quarter profits yesterday, aided by a big improvement in its chemicals business. Quantum. Taxable profits in the quarter soared 58 percent to £272 million from £172m, while turnover rose to £3.2 billion from £2.9b.

*Reuters*

## Lanet Data's net profits decrease in fourth quarter

**RACHEL NEIMAN**

**LANNET** Data Communications announced a drop in fourth quarter net profits and a rise in full year results late Monday in New York.

Net profits for the fourth quarter dropped to \$1.3 million from \$1.9m. during the same period last year.

Revenues jumped to \$20.4m. from \$14.42m., while earnings per share fell to \$0.12 from \$0.18.

Gross margins for the fourth quarter decreased to 50.1% from 50.5%.

Annual net profits jumped to \$5.6m. from \$4.18m. in 1993.

Earnings per share went up to \$0.52 from \$0.39, while revenues rose to \$70.1m. from \$49.8m.

Profit margins for the year declined to 50.6% from 51.6%.

Lanet had a very strong fourth quarter, CEO Benny Hanigal said.

"We shaped industry technology advances, expanded our distribution channels and forged strategic alliances [with AT&T, Olivetti and Data Switch Corporation]," he said.

**Silicom Connectivity Solutions** announced yesterday a sharp rise in annual net profits to \$465,000 from \$62,000 in 1993.

Earnings per share went up to \$0.12 from \$0.2, while revenues rose to \$2.95m. from \$1.3m.

Profit margins increased to 58.9% from 54.9%.

Last year Silicom delivered a large number of products to a leading US-based manufacturer, CEO Avi Eizenman said.

The company said it will continue its efforts to achieve additional OEM deals but does not expect sales to major OEMs in the first quarter.

Earlier this week, Silicom announced a new product - a direct PCMCIA Ethernet LAN connection for Hewlett Packard Palm-top PC users.

The adapter allows the handheld HP PCs to connect directly to networks without taking up memory space.

**Volcan Batteries**, manufacturers of the Volta brand name, reported fourth quarter net profits of NIS 793,000 on revenues of NIS 13.1m.

The company experienced a net loss of NIS 95,000 for the year, compared with a NIS 1.76m. net gain in 1993.

Revenues rose to NIS 34.4m. from NIS 30.5m.

**Volcan suffered a NIS 1.32m. loss on the value of the company's investment portfolio during 1994.**

**Ratio Oil Exploration** reported an annual net loss of NIS 17.5m., compared with a net loss of NIS 6.6m. in 1993.

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Bids must be submitted not later than 12 noon on March 31, 1995.

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# Flyers join five-way tie for first

NEW YORK (AP) — Join the group, Philadelphia.

Following Monday night's 5-3 victory over the Washington Capitals, the Flyers are the latest team to make a move toward the top in the NHL's Atlantic Division, where five teams are tied for first.

Other division races are tightening, too, with the NHL coming up to the one-quarter mark of the lockout-shortened 48-game schedule.

Monday night's victory "reminded me of the way we used to start in this building," said Flyers goaltender Ron Hextall, who is making his second tour with Philadelphia.

Another thing that hadn't changed since Hextall last played in Philadelphia as a rookie in 1986-87: he was as combative as ever. He was involved in several fights.

"The rules have changed a little from my rookie season," Hextall said. "If you play emotional at home, I think it's an advantage."

With the victory, the Flyers moved into a five-way tie for first place with the New York Islanders, New York Rangers, Tampa Bay and Florida, all with 11 points. New Jersey was one point back in second place.

Mikael Renberg, Chris Therien and Patrick Jubin scored goals in less than four minutes of the first period as the Flyers beat the Capitals.

The Flyers, who had been struggling, won their second straight and snapped a three-game home winless streak against Washington. Entering the game, only five teams in the NHL had scored fewer goals than Philadelphia (25).



LACK OF TACT — Hartford Whalers Chris Pronger has it out with Montreal Canadiens Yves Racine during first-period action Monday.

Canadiens 2, Whalers 2  
Paul DiPietro scored late in the third period to give the Canadiens a tie with the Whalers.

Vincent Damphousse sent DiPietro in alone to shovel the puck past goaltender Sean Burke with 2:37 left in regulation time.

Oleg Petrov also scored for Montreal, 4-4-3, which is unbeaten in five home games this season (3-0-2). Adam Burt and Darren Turcotte scored for the Whalers, 2-7-3, who ended a five-game losing streak.

Maple Leafs 4, Blackhawks 2  
Mats Sundin scored his eighth and ninth goals of the season as the Maple Leafs beat the Blackhawks. Dave Ellett and Mike Ridley scored Toronto's other goals and Paul

Ysebaert and Dirk Graham scored for Chicago, which had won five in a row.

It was the final game of an eight-game road trip for the Blackhawks, who went 6-2 and outscored opponents 37-15 in the process. One more win and they would have been able to boast of the longest road winning streak in the franchise's last 30 years. Their overall record, 8-4-0, is best in the NHL's Western Conference.

The Maple Leafs were coming off a 5-3 loss Saturday to the Los Angeles Kings.

"We played better tonight," Ellett said. "We created a lot of opportunities in their end off our forechecking and forced them into a couple of mistakes, and when we had opportunities we took advantage of them and

scored a couple of key goals at key times."

Jets 7, Stars 4  
Nelson Emerson had two goals and Alexei Zhamnov added a goal and three assists as the Jets beat the Stars.

Mike Modano scored his sixth of the season on a 30-foot wrist shot at 10:46 of the second period to give Dallas a 4-3 lead, but defenseman Dave Manson scored his first on the power play to lift the Jets into a 4-4 tie.

MONDAY'S RESULTS:  
Montreal 2, Hartford 2 (OT)  
Philadelphia 5, Washington 3  
Toronto 4, Chicago 2  
Winnipeg 7, Dallas 4  
St. Louis 4, Calgary 2

# Mac TA snubs Russian reception given by ex-spy

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv basketball team was involved in a mild scandal last night after its arrival in Moscow for the important European Club Championship game against CSKA.

The team canceled its appearance at a reception because the party had been organized by Shabtai Kalmanowitz, who was recently released from an Israeli jail after serving a sentence for spying for Russia. Kalmanowitz is now a businessman in Russia, apparently representing companies which do business with Israel.

The team's management was warned about Kalmanowitz's involvement in the party by Deputy Education Minister (with minis-

terial responsibility for sport) Micha Goldman who was in turn tipped off by the Israeli ambassador in Moscow, Professor Aliza Shenhar.

"Business is business, but no representative of a team like Maccabi which represents Israel should be photographed with a man who spied against their country," Goldman said in a telegram to Maccabi chairman Shimon Mizrahi.

Maccabi players yesterday left their hotel in Eilat, where they had stayed overnight after their national league game against Hapoel Eilat on Monday night. The team traveled to Tel Aviv and

then left almost immediately to Moscow for their crucial game.

The constant packing and unpacking and the moving from hotel room to hotel room was hardly the best preparation for the game which will most likely decide which club — Maccabi or CSKA — advances to the next stage of the tournament.

The CSKA players, in contrast to Maccabi, have no league commitments and have been attending a closed training camp for the entire week. Nevertheless, deputy coach AMOROU Yaskin said at the airport "the team is in fine fettle and highly motivated. They know how much a win will mean to the future of the club and to Israeli basketball in general."

# Maxwell skips practice, sues fans for 'slander'

HOUSTON (AP) — Vernon Maxwell skipped the Houston Rockets' first practice after the All-Star break. The suspended guard says he didn't know he was expected.

"It was just a lack of communication with Vernon," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said after Monday's two-hour workout. "We'll get it straightened out. He thought because he was suspended he wasn't supposed to be around the team."

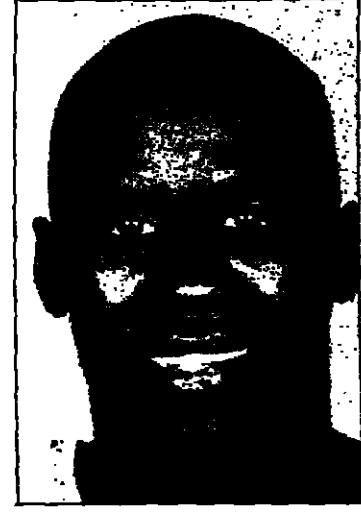
Maxwell was suspended 10 games and fined \$20,000 for rushing into the stands to punch a heckler on February 6 in Portland.

He has eight games left in his 10-game suspension, although he's filed an appeal to NBA commissioner David Stern claiming the league didn't fully investigate the incident.

Tomjanovich said it's not clear whether Maxwell will start when he returns.

Maxwell went into the stands at Portland and confronted Steve George of Atlanta. Maxwell said George shouted racial and sexual insults about his family, especially his daughter, Amber, who died in 1993.

George has denied making any derogatory remarks about Max-



Vernon Maxwell. (AP)

well and has demanded Maxwell retract his accusations.

Maxwell on Monday filed a federal lawsuit in Houston, claiming that George and his brother, Nick George, slandered him by "maliciously accusing him of a crime, namely assault." The suit says nothing about whether the attack actually took place.

George's attorney, Dick Malzels, called Maxwell's lawsuit an "interesting twist" that appears to force the issue. Maxwell's attorney, Dick DeGuerin, refused comment on the lawsuit Monday.

# Warriors' coach Nelson resigns

OAKLAND (AP) — Don Nelson, sick and demoralized this season, resigned Monday as coach and general manager of the Golden State Warriors.

The Warriors said Bob Lanier, the assistant coach and NBA Hall of Fame center, will immediately replace Nelson. Nelson's job as general manager was not immediately filled.

Nelson's son, Donna Nelson, currently an assistant coach for the Warriors, will remain with the team to assist with preparations for the 1995 draft.

Golden State was expected to challenge for the NBA title this season after recording 50 wins last year. But injuries and disension following the loss of forward Chris Webber, last year's rookie of the year, turned the year into a disaster. The Warriors were 14-31 at the All-Star break.

The announcement followed a weekend of meetings between Nelson and team owner Chris Cohan in Phoenix, where the All-Star Game was played.

Published reports had Nelson accepting a \$1 million buyout, with Lanier taking over.

Nelson, the Warriors' general manager for 7 1/2 years and coach for 6 1/2, has taken the team to the playoffs four times, but never reached the conference finals.

Nelson, whose head coaching career began in the 1976-1977 season with the Milwaukee Bucks, has 817 regular-season victories and 604 losses. His postseason record is 51-61.

Lanier, voted into the NBA Hall of Fame in 1992, played 9 1/2 seasons with Detroit and 4 1/2 with the Nelson-coached Milwaukee Bucks before retiring in 1984. His only full-time coaching experience has been as a Warriors assistant this season.

# Lackluster Israel beats Luxembourg

ORI LEWIS

ISRAEL'S national soccer team continued its winning ways with a 4-2 victory over Luxembourg in an international friendly match in Ashdod yesterday.

The decisive, though unconvincing win over one of Europe's weakest sides was intended as a warmup ahead of Israel's crucial European Championship qualifier with France at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan on March 29.

Luxembourg has not won an international fixture of any kind for five years and coach Shlomo Scharf did not have to use his strongest lineup. With Ronnie Roseenthal and Izzik Zohar missing he was able to try out various combinations and try to hide his game plan from French coach Aime Jacque, who was on hand to try and glean as much as possible from the match.

If Scharf did learn anything, however, it is that defensive blunders continue to be the team's undoing and momentary lapses at the back continue to cost Israel dearly, even against relatively weak sides.

Israel got off to a good start

and went ahead after 22 minutes, when Haim Revivo was upended in the Luxembourg area after breaking through the defense.

Ronnan Harazi stepped up to take the resulting penalty and made no mistake, sending the ball high to the right of the Luxembourg keeper.

The second Israeli goal came 12 minutes later, when a Revivo corner was met by Alon Hazan's side heel at the far post who clinically rolled the ball into the net.

Amir Turjeman, playing on his home ground, added the third in the 56th minute when he ran rings around the visitors in their own area and eventually found a narrow opening to shoot into the net at the near post.

But Israel's lethargic performance in the second half soon allowed Luxembourg back into the match and center forward Robbie Langers scored two very similar goals in the 71st and 75th minutes.

The first came from 18 meters out on the right side of the area with Langers shooting low and

hard past a helpless Bonnie Ginsburg in the Israeli goal. Ginsburg replaced Rafi Cohen in the second half.

Langers' second goal was also scored from the edge of the area and again the Israeli defense gave chase in vain. The Luxembourg striker made no mistake and shot past the advancing Ginsburg.

Israel's fourth goal came in the 89th minute with Turjeman running down the left and trying to pass the ball to Revivo in front of an empty net which found the protruding foot of Luxembourg captain Carlo Weiss who found his own net with no trouble at all.

"I am fully aware of the problems which continue to haunt us, we should never have allowed such a weak team to score against us," Scharf said after the match. "This kind of form will not be enough to overcome France."

"We have been following the Israeli side for two years now," French coach Jacque told Channel 1 last night.

"We are aware that we will be facing a side determined to beat us and it will be a great fight on March 29 in Tel Aviv," he added.

# Media flogs Kiwis after cricket fiasco

WELLINGTON (Reuter) — Recriminations in the media and among New Zealand cricket players and officials were the order of the day yesterday following the country's worst Test defeat at the hands of the West Indies.

New Zealand is celebrating its Cricket centenary but to date it seems more like a wake.

The West Indies tour began with three Kiwi players being suspended in connection with marijuana smoking during the recently completed tour of South Africa — an incident described by officials as the blackest in New Zealand cricket's history.

However, some saw the second Test loss on Monday by an innings and 322 runs as even darker.

"It can't get any worse, can it?" the headline in the Wellington daily, the Dominion, said. The New Zealand Herald called the match a "spineless surrender."

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Neal leaves Coventry

Manager Phil Neal, who has been unable to lift Coventry from the threat of relegation, left the Premier League team yesterday "by mutual agreement."

The move clears the way for former Aston Villa and Manchester United boss Ron Atkinson to return to management. Coventry director Mike McGinlay told a London newspaper that Atkinson, fired by Aston Villa in November, would be the "inevitable" choice.

### Arsenal signs Dutchman Helder

London club Arsenal signed Dutch international winger Glenn Helder in a £2-million transfer deal with Vitesse Arnhem yesterday.

The move brings to £5 million the amount Arsenal has spent since the beginning of the year as it tries to halt its slide down the standings in the Premier League.

### UBL announces first six team locations

The United Baseball League, which plans to offer an alternative to Major League Baseball beginning 1996, yesterday announced the location of its first six franchises.

The new league will field teams in New Orleans; Washington, D.C.; Vancouver and San Jose; Puerto Rico as well as clubs in the New York City area and Southern California.

### Border's bribe claim dismissed

Former Pakistani captain Mushtaq Mohammad, commenting on claims of bribe-taking in international cricket, said yesterday he jokingly asked Australian counterpart Allan Border what he would do if he were offered £500,000 to lose a Test match.

Mushtaq said he approached Border during the fifth test against England at Birmingham's Edgbaston in 1993 and "vaguely mentioned" the sum of money.

### Paris Open begins

With top seeds Steffi Graf and Mary Pierce receiving first-round byes, 14-year-old Martina Hingis stole the spotlight yesterday at the Paris Open by winning her French pro debut with ease over Katerina Maleeva.

Hingis, from Switzerland, has moved up to No. 65 in the world, but her 6-4, 6-4 victory still ranked as an upset over the experienced Bulgarian, the No. 30 player.

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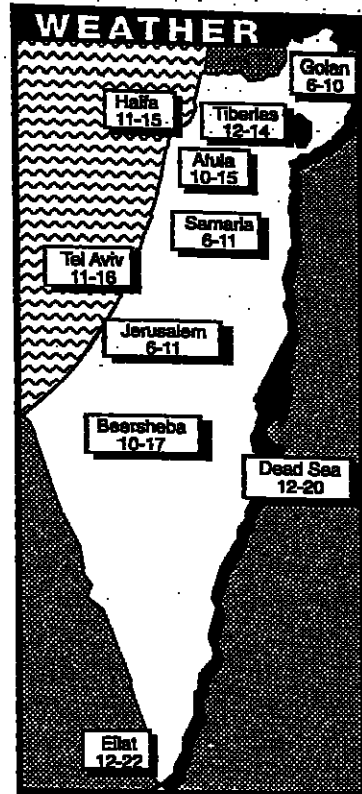
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Brussels	4	8	10	light
Chicago	11	15	10	light
Copenhagen	4	8	10	light
Frankfurt	4	8	10	light
Geneva	4	8	10	light
Helsinki	4	8	10	light
Hong Kong	12	18	10	light
London	4	8	10	light
Los Angeles	11	15	10	light
Madrid	11	15	10	light
Moscow	4	8	10	light
New York	4	8	10	light
Paris	4	8	10	light
Rome	4	8	10	light

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**GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

**EMERGENCY PHARMACIES**  
**Jerusalem:** Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 889744; Belsam, Sela, 610108; Der Aldura, Herod's Gate, 282088. Tel Aviv: Bass, 66 Frishman, 523-7326; Kupat Holim Clalit, 7-9 Amsterdam, 523-2363. Tel Aviv: 3 a.m. Thursday: Ben-Yassir, 142 Ben-Yassir, 523-2363. Tel Aviv: 3 a.m. Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Ein-Harod, 6413730.

**Ramat Gan:** Super Pharm, 3 Oshinsky, Kfar Sava, 558888; Netanya: Hamegan, 13 Weizmann, 522865.

**Kiryat Motzkin:** 7077702.

**Haifa:** Hassani Danya, 98 Abba Khoushy, 341111.

**Beer Sheva:** Clalit Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (near Sderot Hagafim), Herzliya Pituah, 559472, 559407, Open 9 a.m. to midnight.

**Upper Nazareth:** Clalit Pharm, Lev Ha'Her, 570468, Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**DUTY HOSPITALS**  
**Jerusalem:** Shaare Zedek (internal, pediatrics, ENT); Hadasah Ein Kerem (surgery, ophthalmology); Hadasah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics, obstetrics). In case of heart attack, attempted resuscitation, snake bite or scorpion sting, go immediately to nearest hospital (pediatrics, internal, surgery). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, internal, surgery). Netanya: Laniado.

**POLICE**  
**FIRE**  
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**101**

**Magen David Adom**  
 In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:

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# Golan Druse hold general strike

DAVID RUDGE

HUNDREDS of Golan Heights Druse ignored the wintry conditions yesterday to commemorate the 13th anniversary of their general strike against the extension of Israeli law to the region.

All shops and offices in the villages of Majdal Shams, Mas'ada and Buksa'ata were closed as villagers adhered to the traditional strike call to mark the day.

However, there were reports that some residents had gone to work as usual in places outside the villages.

A large force of police and Border Police, led by Northern Region police commander Amos Azani, were deployed in the villages in case of any major disturbances.

Scores of people, some holding aloft Syrian flags and the Syrian national emblem, staged a parade and rally in Buksa'ata. Police did not intervene.

Later, a similar demonstration was held in Majdal Shams with protesters chanting anti-Israeli slogans and declaring their loyalty to Syria and their brethren there.

At one stage, stones were thrown at security forces in Majdal Shams, but there were no injuries and no arrests were made.

There were also reports, at the end of the day, that some residents tried to attack television photographers suspected of



Majdal Shams youngsters hold the Syrian national emblem and pictures of Syrian President Hafez Assad during demonstrations there yesterday to mark the 13th anniversary of their general strike to protest the extension of Israeli law to the region. (Avihu Shapiro/Israel Sun)

working for the police. Scuffles broke out between some of the residents and the journalists, including a team from Channel Two led by reporter Menachem Horowitz, until other villagers intervened.

There were no injuries, although one of the crews' vehicles

was damaged. Village leaders later apologized for the incident.

Throughout the morning, a large number of people gathered on the Syrian side of the border, including relatives of the Golan Heights Druse.

They used loud speakers to shout messages across the border

and sang Syrian nationalist songs and marching tunes.

Police, however, blocked off the main square in Majdal Shams and all routes leading to the area near the border known locally as "Shouting Hill" where residents shout messages to relatives on the Syrian side of the border.

Some local residents reiterated that they still regarded themselves as Syrian citizens, living under Israeli occupation, and were awaiting the day when they would be reunited with their brethren and the Golan Heights Druse villages would once again be under Syrian sovereignty.

## IDF Ombudsman Report:

### Lack of sleep has become the norm

LIAT COLLINS

STRICT RELATIONS between officers and rookie soldiers come under fire in the annual IDF Ombudsman's Report, to be presented to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today.

Problems between officers and soldiers are particularly prevalent in basic training and combat units, according to IDF Ombudsman Brig-Gen. (res.) Aharon Doron. Doron finds in the report that "negative acts" by officers are not performed out of maliciousness, but from the incorrect interpretation of the aims and means of instructing junior soldiers, from ignorance, or inexperience.

Some 8,600 written complaints reached the ombudsman's office, a slight decrease compared to the 1993 report. Complaints range from problems with the medical system, personnel placement, reserve duty, payments, clothing, and personal relations to sexual harassment and lack of sleep. Female soldiers filed 14

complaints of sexual harassment, of which eight were forwarded to the judicial system. The perennial complaints about insufficient sleep show that officers do not abide by regulations and the problem has become a norm, Doron writes.

Most medical complaints concern soldiers stating their commanders do not believe them when they say they need to see a doctor, and that their commanders find ways around doctors' orders.

Reserve soldiers mainly complain about unfair distribution of service days. Another common complaint is from long-serving non-commissioned officers, who say they do not receive fitting treatment and their pension arrangements are not appropriate.

The ombudsman demands more trust and respect for soldiers from officers and calls for the eradication of hazing, which he says seriously harms the IDF's reputation.

## Druse religious leaders back Levine

DAVID RUDGE

DRUSE religious leaders yesterday expressed their trust in the IDF and all its officers, including OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine.

The dignitaries held a special meeting in Julis village in the Galilee to discuss the circumstances surrounding the death in the security zone last December of Maj. Kiwan Hamed.

It followed allegations that Hamed, from Mughar village, may have been killed by friendly fire, and that his family had not been told the whole truth.

The local Haifa weekly newspaper, *Kol Bo*, which first reported the matter, claimed that Hamed had been accidentally shot by the IDF troops he had been with when they were ambushed by gunmen in the Bint J'ail region of the zone.

According to the paper, the tragedy occurred while the troops were carrying out an alleged "kill verification," whereby soldiers, trying to ascertain the death of an

enemy, reportedly shoot again to prevent any possibility of wounded gunmen being able to kill them.

Since then, both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Shahak have categorically denied the existence of any "kill verification" procedure or regulation.

The newspaper also quoted Levine as saying that the full details had not been given to Hamed's family because there were sensitive problems relating to the Druse faith and the way they treated death.

Levine, whose explanations were accepted by Hamed's family, maintained that his comments had been deliberately taken out of context by the newspaper. The whole matter is now being investigated by former chief of staff Lt.-Gen. (res.) Moshe Levy.

Druse spiritual leader Sheikh Muwafa Tarif said yesterday at

the conclusion of the meeting of religious dignitaries that they had faith in the investigation that was being conducted.

Nevertheless, Tarif, whose own position is still being opposed by some members of the Druse community, said the leadership wanted to clarify certain points which he read out in the form of a statement.

"The spiritual leadership expresses its strong reservations over everything that has been published in regard to the Druse faith and the sensitivity of the Druse community, and states that we believe in fate and the will of God above everything," said Tarif.

"We don't have any special sensitivity as has been said about us in the recent reports. The spiritual leadership expresses its trust in the IDF and its officers, from the minister of defence, the Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak and OC Northern Command Amiram Levine," he said.

## Histadrut launches legal fight over extending organization tax

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut will not prevent all workers from getting the Cost of Living increment due in February's wages, but reserves the right to halt the increment by legal action in the future, Histadrut trade union section chairman MK Amir Peretz said yesterday.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon differs with Peretz, and earlier this week said "there are no free lunches" and the workers who benefit from the wage terms achieved by the Histadrut must pay for them.

The Histadrut yesterday presented the legal opinion of wage

experts Francis Raday of Hebrew University and attorney Nahum Feinberg to Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair. The Histadrut maintains that the extension of the organization tax is in keeping with labor laws, wage agreements, and human rights. Moreover, it is acceptable in other progressive, western states that organization fees are deducted from the wages of the workers, for pay and wage benefits achieved by their representative

organizations, the Histadrut argues.

Ben-Yair had advised Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir last week not to extend the organization tax to workers who are not Histadrut members, on the grounds that the tax is in violation of basic human rights, dignity and property laws.

The Histadrut's legal opinion states that on the one hand, all the workers - not only Histadrut members - get the same benefits that the Histadrut achieves for its members, by means of extension orders.

## 2% rise in job-seekers last month

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE number of job-seekers rose about 2 percent last month compared with December, after adjustment for seasonal factors, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry announced yesterday.

Some 104,700 people registered at Employment Office branches for work in January, up from 99,300 in December. After seasonal factors, the numbers were set at 99,200 as compared with 97,300.

The number of college graduates seeking jobs in January was 15,500, up from 41,100 the previous month, for an increase of 7.6%, seasonally adjusted.

About 1 percent more non-academics registered for work in January. The number of people on NII supplementary income who sought work was 19,100, compared with 18,900 in December.

Some 10,000 new immigrants registered at Employment Service offices in January, compared with 9,300 in December, an increase of 0.2%.

In January, people under 35 were 47.2% of job-seekers, compared with 48.4% the previous month.

## Failure to appoint Amman envoy holds up other diplomatic postings

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE fourth-month-long tug of war between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over naming an ambassador to Jordan is now holding up eight other ambassadorial appointments.

The Foreign Ministry postponed its senior appointments panel meeting yesterday, which was slated to decide on eight ambassadorial posts, because Rabin and Peres have not met to resolve the Jordan issue, diplomatic sources say.

"Unless we know who will be ambassador to Jordan, we cannot decide other appointments. If a person does not become ambassador to Jordan, he would automatically be eligible for another ambassadorial slot," a Foreign Ministry source said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Shek would only say yesterday that the panel meeting was postponed due to "technical" reasons.

Apart from Jordan, those ambassadorial appointments to be decided are: Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Finland, India, Ethiopia, and Mexico.

Sources in Jerusalem insist that King Hussein has pressed Israel to name long-time acquaintance and deputy head of the Mossad Ephraim Halevy, a nominee that Rabin has favored throughout.

At the same time, Peres has insisted that the new envoy be a professional diplomat. Yossi Gal, deputy director-general for information, has often been mentioned as a ministry candidate.

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said this week that a "compromise candidate could be someone like Shimon Shamir," an academic, who specializes in the Middle East.

## Hebrew U. innovation removes need for a supercomputer

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAEL has virtually no need for the supercomputer the US and Japan have refused to sell local universities now that computer scientists here have developed a next-generation multi-processor parallel computer, according to the Hebrew University professor who headed the computer's development for over a decade.

Prof. Amnon Barak, head of the university's computer science institute, unveiled the parallel

computer at a ceremony in the Ross Computer Science Building on the Givat Ram campus in Jerusalem yesterday. It was attended by HU president Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund and a representative of Intel-Isreal.

Barak said he and his team developed the "unique" computer operating system, based on algorithms, for use with ordinary workstations purchased at a computer store in Jerusalem.

## Weizman to plan commuting life sentences with Liba'i

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman is due to meet with Justice Minister David Liba'i next week to decide on the commutation of mandatory life sentences for persons convicted of murder.

This is the first time Weizman has agreed to tackle the subject, because of earlier hesitation on his part to make such decisions without additional legal aid.

Some 10-20 cases will be discussed between the two, including the commutation of the sen-

tence of Yona Avrushi, sentenced for the murder of Peace Now activist Emil Gruenzweig. Liba'i confirmed yesterday. He was speaking yesterday following a swearing-in ceremony for four magistrates at Beit Hanassi.

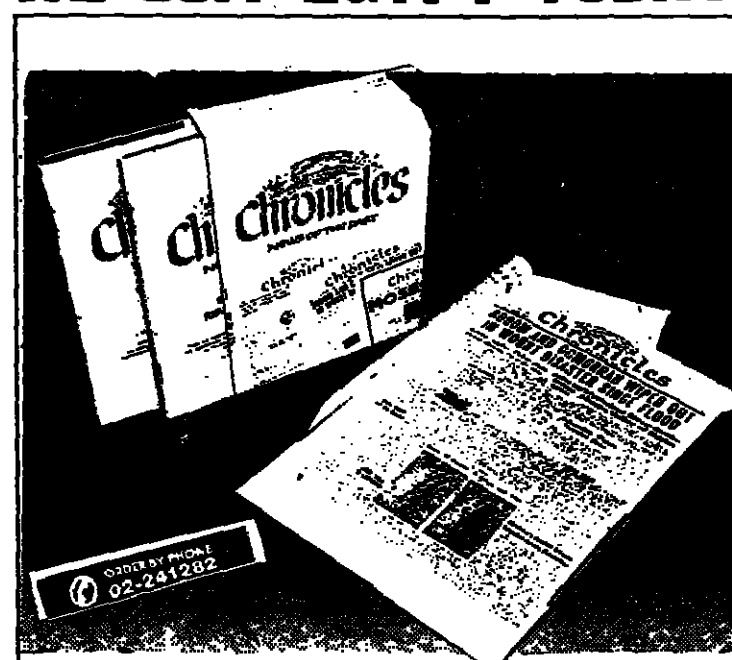
Weizman, in his address to the gathering, noted with satisfaction that Chief Justice Meir Shamgar and Liba'i had accepted his position that there should be legal changes with regard to the president's right to commute sentences. The Justice Ministry is preparing draft legislation for the setting up of an advisory committee on the subject. "I hope this will put an end to the prolonged deliberations between the [president's] residence and the judiciary," Weizman said.

Liba'i noted that anyone released would be on parole and that no sentence would be commuted to less than 30 years, with the possibility of one-third off for good behavior. At the same time, he said, the presidential right of pardon would be maintained, as outlined in the Basic Law. The President could be invoked at any time for exceptional cases.

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## Shahal accepts Abu Kabir lockup report

RAINE MARCUS

POLICE Minister Moshe Shahal announced yesterday that he will adopt a committee's recommendations for improving the Abu Kabir police lockup, after conditions there were found to be deplorable.

The committee was established in October by the ministry, after a youth on remand was assaulted throughout the night by his cell mates.

Last month, a 16-year-old girl, remanded on drug dealing offenses, committed suicide in the youth wing at Abu Kabir. Children's associations have constantly blasted the lack of qualified personnel, degrading treatment by existing staff, and subhuman conditions there.

Shahal said yesterday that remand is a punishment in itself and that an offender, who is still legally innocent until proved guilty, should not receive a double punishment by being forced to suffer in dirty and overcrowded conditions.

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